



Austin Fire Department Guide to WUI Proximity Class (Zone): Ignition-Resistant Construction Per 2015 International Wildland-Urban Interface Code (IWUIC)

The ignition-resistant (IR) construction requirements are determined by a structure's proximity to wildland. There are three (3) proximity distances referenced in the locally amended IWUIC and City of Austin WUI Rules within the Fire Protection Criteria Manual. Internally these zones are identified as:

WUI Proximity Class A, WUI Proximity Class B, and WUI Proximity Class C

NOTE: WUI Proximity Class is not the same as fire-resistance class or classification. For example, all roofs within WUI Proximity Class A, B, and C shall have a Class A fire resistance rating per ASTM E 108. *The use of WUI Proximity "Class" will change to WUI Proximity "Zone" with implementation of the 2024 IWUIC projected for January 1, 2025.*

The information below primarily includes a general summary of requirements from **IWUIC Chapter 5**. Regulations from all other chapters apply regardless of WUI proximity class. This list is not exhaustive of all possible requirements.

Plan review staff will not approve documents that have generic copy-pasted references. Code references should be indicated as applicable to the project and drawing details must demonstrate compliance with the IWUIC (e.g. floor plans, elevations, wall sections). Specific material types and product information, such as manufacturer and model number, must be shown on construction documents so that compliance can be verified during plan review. There will be no on-site material determination if the material is subject to WUI code compliance.

The code and amendments can be located here:

<https://www.austintexas.gov/departments/wildland-urban-interface-code>.

WUI Proximity Class A: Structures located within 50' from the Wildland

WUI Proximity Class A Construction will meet the following requirements

All WUI Proximity Class B & C requirements listed below plus:

- [IWUIC 504.3.1 \(amended\)](#) Eaves, soffits, and fascia. Soffit vents and exposed rafter tails are not allowed.
- [IWUIC 504.5 \(amended\)](#) Exterior walls
- [IWUIC 504.8 \(amended\)](#) Exterior glazing
- [IWUIC 504.9 \(amended\)](#) Exterior doors

WUI Proximity Class B: Structures located more than 50' up to 150' away from the Wildland

WUI Proximity Class B Construction will meet the following requirements

All WUI Proximity Class C requirements listed below plus:

- [IWUIC 504.3.2 \(amended\)](#) Eaves, soffits, and fascia. Heavy timber exposed rafter tails. Materials allowed for WUI Proximity Class A are also allowed. Soffit vents are not allowed 504.10.1.
- [IWUIC 504.11 \(amended\)](#) and [504.11.1](#) Detached accessory structures

WUI Proximity Class C: Structures more than 150' up to 1.5 miles away from the Wildland

WUI Proximity Class C Construction will meet the following requirements

- [IWUIC 504.2](#) Class A roof covering and assemblies
 - o [IWUIC 504.2.1](#) Roof valleys
 - o Skylights shall be Class A fire rated per ASTM E 108 or UL 790, or may have glazing compliant with [IWUIC 504.8 \(amended\)](#) and a noncombustible frame
 - o [IWUIC 507.1](#) Roof repair or replacement
- [IWUIC 504.10 \(amended\)](#) Vents
- [IWUIC 504.4](#) Gutters & downspouts
- [IWUIC 504.7 \(amended\)](#) Appendages and structures (including decks, porches, balconies)
 - o Fence structures located within 5' from the home will be constructed in accordance with [IWUIC 504.7 \(amended\)](#)
 - o [IWUIC 504.7.1](#) Underfloor areas over a descending slope greater than 10 percent
 - o [IWUIC 504.6](#) Exception applicable to decks not over a slope: The underside of a deck not subject to [IWUIC 504.7.1](#) consisting of the columns, beams, bracing and floor joists, shall be allowed to be built from any approved material provided that the entire underside of the deck is completely enclosed with a wall meeting the requirements of section [IWUIC 504.5 \(amended\)](#). Ventilation shall be provided per [IWUIC 504.10 \(amended\)](#). Storage or access points to allow storage under the deck shall not be allowed.
 - o For minimum solid heavy timber size refer to the 2021 International Building Code (IBC) [Table 2304.11](#)
- [IWUIC 605](#) Spark arresters
- [IWUIC A104.7](#) and [A104.8](#) Outdoor fires, barbecues, grills, outdoor fireplaces