

Mulches

Reducing fire risk at your property



Mulch helps keep your garden healthy by holding moisture, keeping roots cool and reducing weeds. In bushfire-prone areas, it's important to choose the right mulch to reduce fire risk.

Within the Asset Protection Zone (APZ) around your home, stick to non-combustible mulches such as pebbles, gravel and shells as they won't burn or blow away easily in strong winds. If you're using organic mulch outside the APZ, avoid fine or dry materials, keep the mulched area relatively small and well-watered, and separate garden beds to reduce fire risk.

Healthy, green plants are less flammable than dead ones, so smart mulching can help protect your home and garden.

Do

- » Use non-combustible mulch where possible.
- » If you use combustible mulch keep the area/s small, and separate them using non-combustible elements (ie a pathway).

- » If practical, try to keep mulched areas wet during a bushfire incident, until after the fire front has passed.
- » Design your garden to be used all year-round. One that suits your needs / wants is more likely to be used and maintained.

Don't

- » Use fine, dry mulches like pine needles, shredded bark or small wood chips, as they can catch fire easily. Choose larger, +6mm, hardwood, wood-chips and coarse mulches instead, which hold moisture better and are less likely to ignite.
- » Place combustible mulch against buildings, windows or under floors.
- » Use timber edging around mulched garden beds; choose stone or concrete instead.