Firescaping Checklist

Take this checklist with you when you go to your home improvement store, local nursery, or when consulting a professional landscaper. Use this list to ensure your yard and garden are within recommended standards, and are as fire safe as possible.

Mulch and Landscaping

Ask for **non-woody, noncombustible mulch** and **hardscaping** options.

- Pea gravel, river rock stones, paving stones, and natural rock
- Utilize hardscaping techniques to break up plant continuity and create noncombustible zones. Retaining walls, patios etc.
- Ask your landscaping contractor for examples of previous projects they have done or search around online for creative inspiration

Plant Selection

There are hundreds of options of fire resistant plants. When searching for plants, make sure the plants have the following characteristics:

- High in moisture content, saponins (soap), pectin and/or latex
- Small in size
- Minimal amounts of volatile oils and resins
- Ability to withstand drought
- Minimal horizontal spread

Plant Spacing

- Try to remove all plants within the 5 feet of your home
- 2x the space between the plants as their fully gown height
- Create islands of plants with spaced by non combustible materials
- Plant in bunches creating adequate spacing between bunches and surrounding plants

Trees and Forestry

- Create 6 feet of clearance between the ground and the limbs of trees, being careful to not cut more than the third of live limbs
- Within the intermediate zone (5-30 feet), create 18 feet of spacing between the tree's outermost limbs by removing trees and shrubs that may be creating continuous fuels
- Request a free home risk assessment from a professional at: http://dnrc.mt.gov/fire

Notes:

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