

Wildland-Urban Interface Building Codes

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
Office of the State Fire Marshal



GUTTERS

- If debris in gutters ignites (by burning embers) the resulting fire will expose roof edge. In this case, the performance of the 'roof' will depend on the protection provided by the edge.
- Roof gutters shall be provided with the means to prevent the accumulation of debris, but no specific guidance is provided on how to accomplish this and no standard procedure to evaluate performance of devices that may minimize accumulation.
- Gutter covers are available and claim to minimize the accumulation of debris, while still allowing water to enter. Commercially available types: 1) open cell foam fill, 2) mesh cover, 3) solid metal cap, and 4) screened metal covering.
 - Maintenance of covers still required.
 - There is potential for debris to enter gutter at some joints
 - Anecdotal evidence indicates that pine needles may plug mesh-type covers.
- No restriction on gutter material (i.e., metal or vinyl gutter ok).

