

# FIRE SAFETY 101:

## VENTS

For more information visit  
[smmfsc.org](http://smmfsc.org) to stay informed on the  
latest educational material from our  
monthly fires safety series

### FIRE SAFE VENTS



Vents are the most important and easiest item on your home to retrofit.

Embers can easily enter through gaps in vents and ignite the structure.

Vents need to be non-combustible and have gaps no bigger than 1/8<sup>th</sup> inch.

### TYPES OF VENTS IN YOUR HOME

#### FOUNDATION VENTS



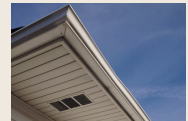
Found at the bottom of the home along the perimeter

#### ATTIC VENTS



Often a large vent opening to the attic

#### SOFFIT VENTS



Found under the eaves of the roof

#### GABLE VENTS



Often found at the end of a pinched roof

### 1/16<sup>TH</sup> INCH SCREENING

#### IMPORTANCE

To avoid embers entering the home, install 1/16<sup>th</sup> inch, or at least 1/8<sup>th</sup> inch, non-combustible screening, on all vents on the home. The screening can be installed either on the interior OR exterior of the structure.

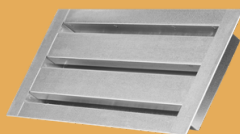


#### MAINTENANCE

Ensure there are no gaps around the frame of the vent. Rodents can chew threw the screening, so be sure to regularly check for holes.

### MANUFACTURED VENTS

Other fire safe vents approved by the state fire marshal can be purchased, such as **Vulcan** or **Brand Guard vents**. These are equally as effective and often have a more sleek look than screening.



### ACTION STEPS

1. Identify ALL vents on your home. Be sure to look behind machinery, in small corners, and under all eaves.
2. Decide which method is best for you. Bulk screening can be purchased [here](#), you can either install it yourself ( tutorial [here](#)) or hire a contractor.
3. Install and double check for gaps.
4. Regularly check for wear, debris buildup, and rodent damage.

### RESOURCES

Check out  
[defensiblespace.org](http://defensiblespace.org)  
and  
[fire.ca.gov/buildingmaterials](http://fire.ca.gov/buildingmaterials)  
for more information

