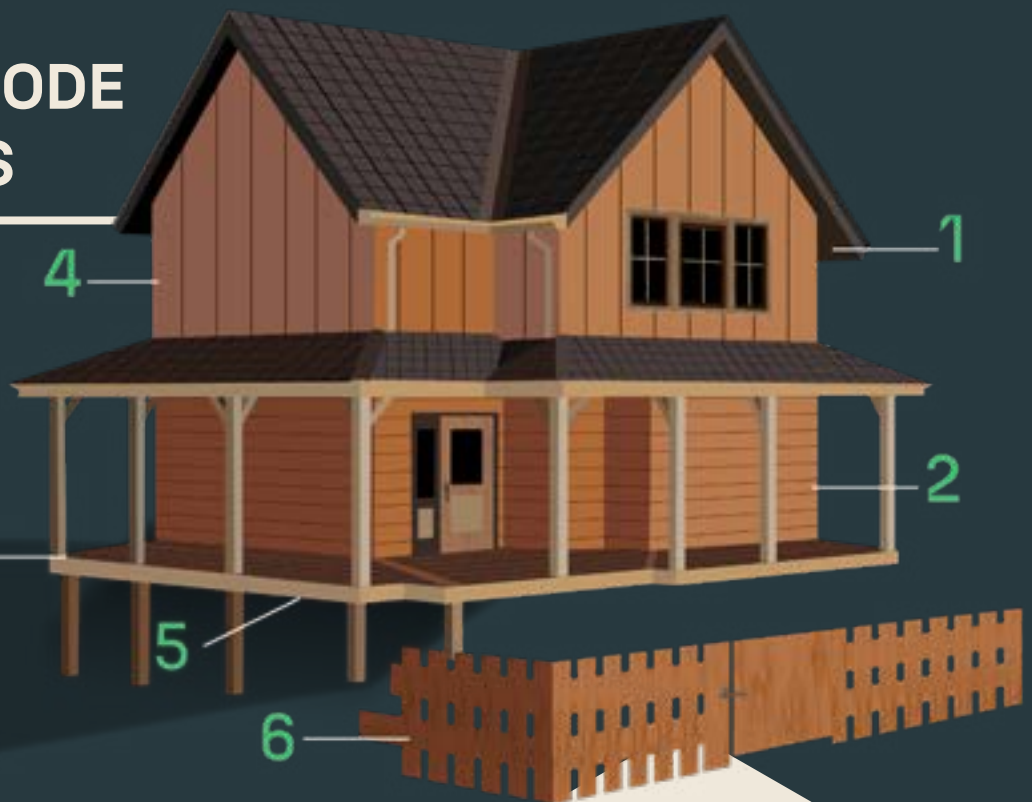


FIRE-RETARDANT-TREATED WOOD AND THE INTERNATIONAL WILDLAND-URBAN INTERFACE CODE. (IWUIC)

IWUIC FRTW CODE APPLICATIONS

ExteriorFireX™

1. FRTW Eaves & Soffits
2. FRTW Lap Siding
3. FRTW Decking
4. FRTW Panel Siding
5. FRTW Unenclosed Underfloor Protection
6. FRTW Gates & Fencing



Hoover



Key Objectives of the IWUIC

LIFE SAFETY

Protecting residents and first responders in WUI zones.

PROPERTY PROTECTION

Reducing structural damage through fire-resilient materials and defensible space.

FIRE SPREAD MITIGATION

Preventing the spread of wildfires through communities via building design and landscape management.

The IWUIC was developed to mitigate the risk of wildfire exposure in areas where human development meets undeveloped wildland. These WUI zones are particularly vulnerable due to combustible vegetation and often limited emergency access.

Construction Requirements

The IWUIC addresses several key areas, including:

- **Building materials:** Recommends or requires the use of noncombustible or ignition-resistant materials, including FRTW, particularly for roofs, exterior walls, and decks.
- **Defensible space:** Mandates clearances between structures and vegetation to create a buffer that slows fire spread.
- **Access and egress:** Ensures that emergency vehicles can reach properties quickly and that residents can evacuate safely.
- **Utilities:** Establishes guidelines for protecting propane tanks, electrical lines, and water supplies from fire hazards.

The IWUIC categorizes areas into **Ignition-Resistant Construction Classes (IRCC)**, primarily Classes 1, 2, and 3, based on the fire hazard severity. Each class has specific requirements for exterior wall coverings, roofing, eaves, decks, and other components.

For example, **Class 1** (highest fire hazard) requires ignition-resistant or noncombustible materials for most exterior building features. **FRTW** can be used in many of these applications, provided it meets code-defined performance standards.

FRTW and IWUIC Compliance

Under the IWUIC, FRTW is recognized as an acceptable material for use in ignition-resistant construction when it complies with Section 503.2.2 (2024 Edition).

To be compliant:

- **Treatment Must Be Weather-Resistant:** Only FRTW tested, listed and labeled for exterior use (e.g., ExteriorFireX or EXT Type which is UL Classified to ASTM D2898 compliance) is acceptable."
- **Proper Labeling:** Each piece must bear a label from a recognized third-party agency, verifying treatment, exposure rating, and code compliance.



- ExteriorFireX™ is not a preservative. Therefore, ExteriorFireX™ treated Redwood or Western Red Cedar must be used for meeting the requirements for decay and termite protection in the above ground locations specified in IBC Section 2304.12 and IRC Sections R304 and R305.

Allowable Construction and Architectural Features for Various Ignition-Resistant Construction Classes

Architectural Feature	Class 1 (Extreme Severity)	Class 2 (High Severity)	Class 3 (Moderate Severity)
Eaves and soffits	Ignition-resistant material, or 1-hour fire-resistance-rated construction, or 2-inch dimensional lumber, or 1-inch exterior fire-retardant-treated lumber, or ¾-inch exterior fire-retardant-treated plywood	Combustible eaves, facias and soffits shall be enclosed with solid materials with a minimum thickness of ¾ of an inch. No exposed rafter tails are permitted unless constructed of heavy timber.	No special requirement
Exterior walls	1-hour fire resistance from the exterior side, or Approved noncombustible materials, or Heavy timber or log wall construction, or Exterior of fire-retardant treated wood , or Exterior of ignition-resistant material	1-hour fire resistance from the exterior side, or Approved noncombustible materials, or Heavy timber or log wall construction, or Exterior of fire-retardant-treated wood , or Exterior of ignition-resistant material	No special requirement
Unenclosed underfloor protection	1-hour fire-resistance-rated construction, or Heavy timber construction, or Exterior fire-retardant-treated wood	1-hour fire resistance-rated construction, or Heavy timber construction, or Exterior fire-retardant-treated wood	1-hour fire resistance-rated construction, or Heavy timber construction
Appendages and projections, such as decks	1-hour fire resistance from the exterior side, or Heavy timber construction, or Approved noncombustible materials, or Exterior fire-retardant-treated wood , or Ignition-resistant building materials	1-hour fire resistance from the exterior side, or Heavy timber construction, or Approved noncombustible materials, or Exterior fire-retardant-treated wood , or Ignition-resistant building materials	No special requirement

FRTW in the Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI)

Executive Order 13728 empowers all federal agencies (AHJs) to apply the wildfire-resistant design provisions outlined in the most current edition of the International Wildland-Urban Interface Code (IWUIC) or an equivalent nationally recognized code.

To learn more about FRTW construction in the WUI, see the Colorado State Forest Service's FireWise Construction Guide and our [WUI Page](#).

In WUI zones, FRTW is frequently used in:

- Eaves, Soffits, and Fascia
- Siding and Exterior Walls
- Decking and Railings
- Roof Sheathing (under approved coverings)

Advantages of FRTW in WUI Construction:

CODE COMPLIANCE: Recognized in the IWUIC, International Residential Code (IRC), and International Building Code (IBC) in areas where enhanced fire-performance is required.

AESTHETICS: Maintains the natural look of wood, which is often desired in residential construction.

WORKABILITY: Can be cut, drilled, and fastened like untreated wood without requiring special tools.

COST-EFFECTIVENESS: More affordable than some alternatives like fiber-cement or metal siding.

Summary

The IWUIC provides a blueprint for more resilient construction that can help save lives and reduce property loss during wildfire events. Using FRTW in accordance with the IWUIC can help safeguard communities while preserving architectural flexibility and cost efficiency.

The primary benefit of FRTW is that it enhances fire safety without significantly changing construction practices or aesthetics. It is widely available, easy to work with, and accepted by the building and fire codes, including the IWUIC, when properly tested, listed, and labeled.

Hoover's **ExteriorFireX™ lumber and plywood** are stocked in Southern Pine and Douglas fir. ExteriorFireX™ lumber is also available in Western Red Cedar and Redwood by special order. ExteriorFireX™ siding is available in APA 303 plywood siding profiles and lumber lap siding patterns in redwood, cedar, pine, and fir.



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