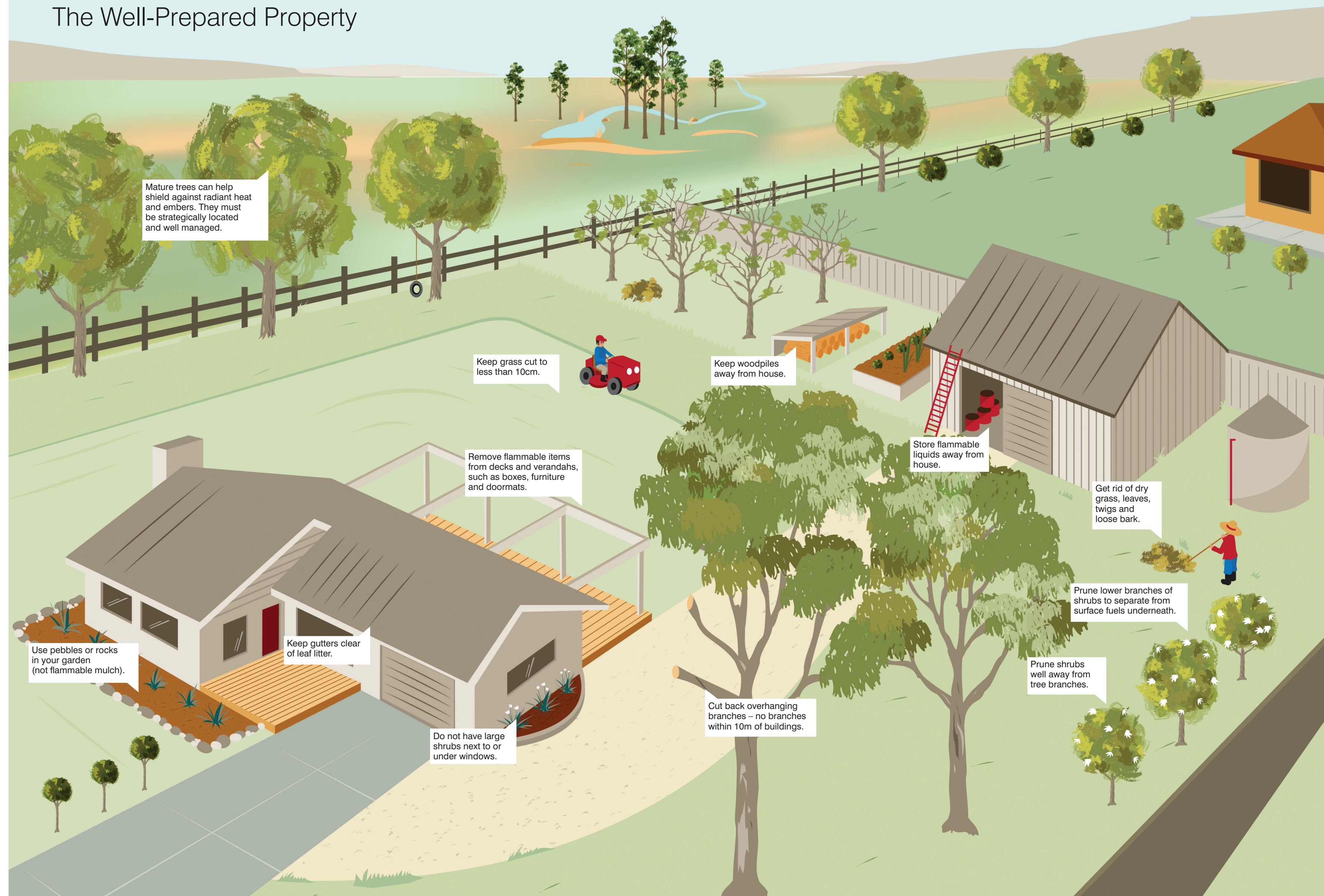


THE WELL-PREPARED PROPERTY



The Well-Prepared Property



Mature trees can help shield against radiant heat and embers. They must be strategically located and well managed.

Keep grass cut to less than 10cm.

Keep woodpiles away from house.

Remove flammable items from decks and verandahs, such as boxes, furniture and doormats.

Store flammable liquids away from house.

Get rid of dry grass, leaves, twigs and loose bark.

Use pebbles or rocks in your garden (not flammable mulch).

Keep gutters clear of leaf litter.

Prune lower branches of shrubs to separate from surface fuels underneath.

Do not have large shrubs next to or under windows.

Cut back overhanging branches – no branches within 10m of buildings.

Prune shrubs well away from tree branches.

> KEY POINTS

- > It is important to be prepared before the fire season and preparing the property around your home can help reduce the impact of fire on the house.
- > Adults are responsible for preparing the property, but there are things you can do to help.
- > Things to do to prepare the property include:
 - Mowing lawns – grass should be kept short (no more than 10 cm high).
 - Rake up leaves and small twigs.
 - Remove lower branches of trees.
 - Prune shrubs and keep them away from windows.
 - Don't put flammable mulch on gardens – use rocks or pebbles.
 - Move wood piles away from the house.
 - Move doormats and furniture away from the house, decks and verandahs.
 - Keep gutters clean.
 - Move flammable liquids away from the house.
- > Even if your family plans to leave before a fire (which is the safest thing to do) preparing the property is very important because it will reduce the impact of fire on the house.

Questions for discussion

How often should the property be prepared for the fire season?

(before the fire season and regularly throughout the season to maintain it).

What else can help make the property safer?

(sealing gaps around the house, in the roof, on decks and verandahs; grazed paddocks; have fire-resistant plants; get screens for windows).