



Evaporative air conditioner – fire safety

Your evaporative air conditioning unit can catch fire from embers coming from bushfires. If a fire starts in your air conditioner, it can spread quickly throughout your home.

If there is smoke nearby, you should:

- Run the air conditioner to wet the filter pads
- When smoke is over your home or ash starts to drop around your house, switch the air conditioner off
- If the unit can run water over the filter with the fan turned off, continue to do so
- Keep checking your air conditioner and the area around your home for spot fires from embers, while safe to do so, until the danger has passed.

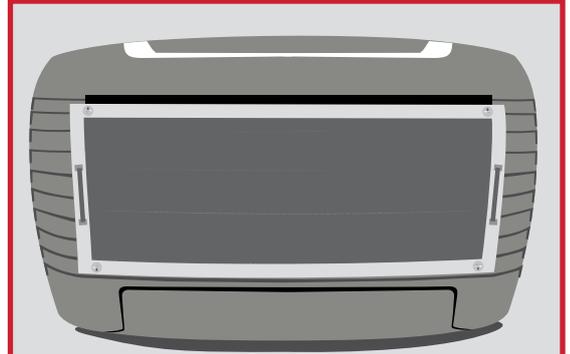
If embers get into the roof space of your home, it can be difficult for firefighters to put the fire out. Knowing what to do to keep your evaporative air conditioner safe from fire can help save your property.

One way to help keep your evaporative air conditioner safe from fire is by installing **ember protection screens**.

Installing ember protection screens on evaporative air conditioning units

An ember protection screen is designed to prevent embers entering the unit and igniting the filter pads or blowing into the roof space of your home.

There are a number of possible screen designs, however, the most effective option is an external screen. Contact your provider for advice on the design and fitting of external screens for your unit to ensure the performance of the system is not compromised.

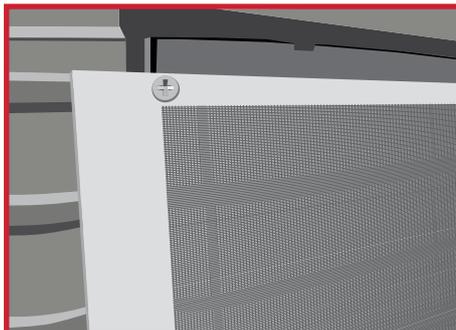


External metal mesh screens can be securely fitted over each of the air intake panels.



Handles can be attached to the external screens to allow easy removal of the air intake panels.

A fire resistant foam or sealer should be used to fill in any small openings, ensuring that gaps are not greater than 2mm.



Screens should fit snugly to the unit and be securely attached with screws or by butterfly closures at or near the ceiling level for easy removal.

Contact your air conditioning unit supplier for additional information.

Regardless of which design you chose, it is important to note that the screen should be:

- non-combustible covers with a mesh or perforated sheet, having a maximum aperture of 2mm;
- made of corrosion resistant steel, bronze or aluminium; and
- not have any gaps greater than 2mm in which embers may enter the air conditioning unit and ignite the potentially flammable filter pads.

Ember protection screens should be fitted and secured well before the fire season.

For more information about retrofitting your house for bushfire refer to *A guide to retrofit your home for better protection from a bushfire* or visit cfa.vic.gov.au