

Clearing vegetation to help protect your home from bushfires



Know what you can and can't do without a permit

If you live in a bushfire risk area, you probably don't need a permit to clear or remove vegetation around your home and on your land.

Recently introduced laws in Victoria – designed to make it easier to protect homes from bushfire – mean there is less red tape than there used to be. However, **it is still essential to check before you clear.**

Different rules apply in different municipalities, and tough penalties can apply. To check what is permitted in your area by visiting cfa.vic.gov.au/clearing

Alternatively, contact your local shire or council.

10/30 and 10/50 explained

The 10/30 or 10/50 rules exempt landowners from needing a permit

Prior to 2011, property owners were generally required to apply for a permit to remove any native vegetation on their property. These laws have since been made less stringent for people in bushfire risk areas with the introduction of planning exemptions known as the '10/30' and '10/50' rules.

The 10/30 rule

If this rule applies in your municipality, you will not need a permit to remove, destroy or lop:

1. Any vegetation, including trees, within 10 metres of your house
2. Any vegetation, excluding trees, within 30 metres of your house.

The 10/30 rule only applies for vegetation on your own land.

The 10/50 rule

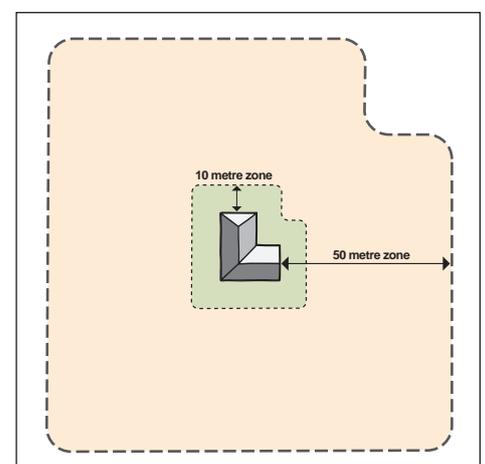
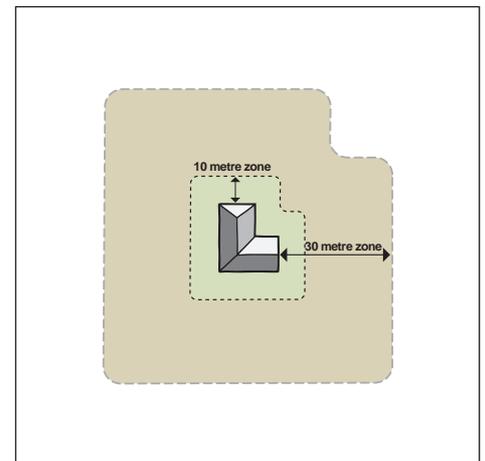
If this rule applies in your municipality, you will not need a permit to remove, destroy or lop:

1. Any vegetation, including trees, within 10 metres of your house
2. Any vegetation, excluding trees, within 50 metres of your house

The 10/50 rule only applies for vegetation on your own land.

If your community is generally identified as 'high bushfire risk', there's a good chance the 10/50 rule will apply to you.

Check if 10/30 or 10/50 applies in your municipality at cfa.vic.gov.au/clearing



What you need to know
Under Victorian law, a house is defined as a 'building used for accommodation'.

The fence line vegetation rule

If this rule applies in your municipality, you will not need a permit to remove, destroy or lop any vegetation for a combined maximum width of four metres either side of a fence between your property and a neighbouring property.

Note that this rule only applies to you if the fence was constructed before 10 September 2009; AND you have the neighbour's permission before undertaking any works.

Check if the fenceline vegetation rule applies in your municipality at cfa.vic.gov.au/clearing

Newer homes

If your home was built or approved after 10 September 2009 you will need a permit to clear vegetation no matter where you live. Contact your local shire or council for more information.

Note: houses that are replacements for a home damaged or destroyed by bushfire between 1 January 2009 and 31 March 2009 are entitled to clear vegetation according to 10/30 and 10/50.

Why clear vegetation?

Research shows that clearing fuel near your house is one of the most important things you can do to help protect it from a bushfire.

Before the fire season, help take steps to remove – or keep to a minimum – anything flammable around your home. Think about both vegetation and household items.

Learn how to make your home safer

You can find more tips and advice about preparing your property under the Plan and Prepare section of the CFA website, or call the Victorian Bushfire Information Line on 1800 240 667.



Example of a well prepared property