



2025 RDCK FireSmart Rebate Guide

As part of the Community Resiliency Investment program there is potential for homeowners to be compensated up to \$5,000 for performing FireSmart activities on residential property or homes. In order to qualify for this funding, homes must be assessed by a RDCK Wildfire Mitigation Specialist through the Wildfire Mitigation Program (formerly Home Partners Program). **The rebate application intake is open from May 1st through to October 31st 2025.**

Important Information

- All rebates are funded through a provincial grant the RDCK applies on called the UBCM Community Resiliency Investment Grant(CRI). This means the RDCK has an annual limit on total rebates that can be issued, and are bound to distribute these rebates in accordance with provincial CRI guidelines.
- **It is possible that the RDCK will exhaust all rebate funding annually before the rebate intake concludes each fall.** Once rebate funding has been exhausted, no more rebates may be issued that year. Rebate funding varies between RDCK electoral areas and participating municipalities, check in with us to determine if there is still available funding in your area.
- Only mitigation work recommended on your FireSmart Wildfire Mitigation assessment (previously Home Partners assessment) and listed in table 1 of the application form **within 30m of the primary residence** is eligible for rebate. The Wildfire Mitigation / Home Partners assessments are hereafter referred to as the 'RDCK FireSmart assessment'
- Only work completed after the initial RDCK FireSmart assessment has taken place will be eligible, no exceptions will be made.
- Mitigation work applied on must be consistent with the descriptions found on the RDCK Rebate Application Form in Table 1, and contractor receipts are to be broken down into table 1 categories: On the Home, Immediate Zone, Intermediate Zone, and Extended Zone.
- All rebate applications must be accompanied by a copy of the FireSmart Home Assessment. If you do not have a copy of your assessment filed, you may need to complete this form: <https://firesmartcanada.ca/home-partners-assessment-report-request/>

New in 2025

Various maximum rebate totals to specific zones or mitigation activities will be applied. This is to prioritize mitigation activities closest to the home, where they will be most effective at preventing wildland urban interface disasters. Residents will still be able to apply to for up to \$5000, however not all of the work can be completed in the extended zone (10-30m from the home) for example.

Overall Zone maximums; exemptions apply for each Zone, please review the rebate application carefully:

On the home itself - \$5000 (Max of \$500 towards cleaning gutters)

Immediate Zone (0-1.5m from home) - \$4000

Intermediate Zone (1.5-10m from home) - \$3000 (Max of \$250 towards maintaining lawn)

Extended Zone (10-30m from home) - \$2000

Residents can “mix and match” different zone maximums, this means one could apply for the maximums of \$3,000 in the intermediate zone and \$2,000 in the extended zone to apply on a total of \$5,000. Any

combination of the above totals can be used to reach up to the \$5,000 rebate maximum. The minimum rebate application is for \$500.

Please note these numbers are referring to amounts applied on. At a 50% cost share this means a resident must contribute \$8000 to get the \$4000 rebate within the Immediate zone for example.

Steps to apply for a rebate

Step 1 - Get a free RDCK FireSmart assessment of your home ignition zone from an RDCK Wildfire Mitigation Specialist by filling out the online application at rdck.ca/firesmart emailing firesmart@rdck.bc.ca or calling 250-352-1539.

Step 2 – Work with your Wildfire Mitigation Specialist to complete a rebate work plan. This is where you can plan out your FireSmart mitigation actions and have some feedback on how to best prioritize your efforts.

Step 3 - Take action on the recommendations from your FireSmart home assessment. This can be accomplished by yourself or using hired help. Use the table on the Rebate Application Form to keep track of both your personal hours as well as any money spent on contractors or materials.

Step 4 - Submit your rebate application. Please note that rebate applications over \$1000 will require a follow up visit from your Wildfire Mitigation Specialist.

Frequently asked questions

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How much can I apply for and how is the amount calculated?

RDCK residents can apply for a FireSmart rebate for any amount between \$500 and \$5000. The rebate is a 50% cost share with the resident. This means one must complete \$1000 worth of mitigation work to receive \$500, \$10,000 or more to receive \$5,000 and anything in between. Please read page 1 to understand how various zones have maximum rebate totals that can be applied on

What types of things can I do to qualify for the rebate?

After your FireSmart assessment you will receive a report which details all the recommended FireSmart mitigation actions for your home and property. Only work listed on table 1 of the application form and outlined by your Wildfire Mitigation Specialist from your FireSmart assessment is eligible for the rebate.

How do I calculate the value and track mitigation actions taken on my property?

Use the Rebate Application Form to track your own labour time (\$32.00/hr), hired contractors, expenses for materials, or a combination of these. On table 1 found on pages 2 and 3 of the application form, find the category that best represents where the work was completed. There are three columns, the left column is where you would put any expenditures, the middle column is where you would put how many hours you personally put towards the project, the right column will calculate the value. Any expenditures in the left column will require an attached receipt. These values are totaled and calculated at the bottom of page 3. The rebate is a 50% cost share, meaning the rebate amount paid out will be half the total at the bottom of page 3.

Can I complete the work myself?

Yes, you can work towards any project yourself by tracking the number of hours you put towards it. Each hour is valued at \$32.00 per hour.

What is the timeline for application?

Rebate applications are accepted from May 1st through to October 31st 2024 or until we run out of available rebate budget for a given area. If you don't get your application in before this you can continue to work on it throughout the winter and spring and apply once the rebate intake begins next spring.

What is a rebate follow up and do I need one?

A rebate follow up is a quick visit from a Wildfire Mitigation Specialist (WMS) to confirm the mitigation work completed on the application. This is also a chance to discuss next steps and where to prioritize future work. Any rebate application totaling \$1000 or more will require a follow up visit from a WMS. Any application under \$1000 that does not clearly indicate the work completed through photos will also require a follow up.

Can residents receive multiple rebates?

We limit one rebate per home, per year. This means if you have received a rebate in the past you can apply for another one the following year. Once your rebate is approved, any work completed after this will be eligible towards your next rebate.

What is the difference between the Home Partners Program and the Wildfire Mitigation Program?

Effectively, they are the same. The name change came into effect when FireSmart BC took on the home assessment program in early 2025. The purpose of both programs remains the same: to help empower homeowners to become more resilient to wildfire. The rebate program accepts both Home Partners Program (2024 and earlier) and Wildfire Mitigation Program (2025 and beyond) assessments.

I had my assessment through the RDCK years ago and now want to apply for a rebate, do I need another assessment?

No, any recommended FireSmart mitigation work completed after your assessment took place will qualify for a rebate. Please note that if you are planning mitigation work starting this year you will need to work with your Wildfire Mitigation Specialist to complete the Rebate Work Plan document to approve the planned work. A copy of your FireSmart Home Assessment is a requirement of the rebate application.

I don't have a copy of my home assessment, now what?

If you consented to have your data transferred from FireSmart Canada to FireSmart BC in the fall of 2024, we will have access to your home assessment. If you did not consent to this data transfer, and you do not have a copy of your assessment in your files, complete this form through FireSmart Canada: <https://firesmartcanada.ca/home-partners-assessment-report-request/>

Is there a limited number of rebates available per year?

Yes, each year we have a limited amount of funding to administer for rebates. Rebates are on a first come first serve basis starting in May. If you submit a rebate application after available funds are gone we will ask you to save your application and resubmit the following year.

Can I get a rebate for my property that does not have a home on it?

No, we require a fully built home on the property to access the rebate. Only homes that qualify for a Wildfire Mitigation Program Assessment will qualify for the rebate. We do offer Bare Land FireSmart Assessments for property owners who have not yet built, however, the rebate is not available until the home is built.

How do I submit my rebate?

You can submit your rebate via email to firesmart@rdck.bc.ca emailed applications are preferred. Please use the fillable PDF formats to complete the application forms and send electronically as this will speed up the approval process. If file sizes are too large to email in one go, feel free to send multiple emails with photos to show the completed work.

Helpful links:

[RDCK FireSmart website](#)

[Sign up for an assessment](#)