



## 2024 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 Home Partners Program. The rebate application intake is open from May 1<sup>st</sup> through to October 31<sup>st</sup> 2024.

### Steps to apply for a rebate

**Step 1** - Get a free FireSmart home assessment from an RDCK Wildfire Mitigation Specialist by filling out the online application at [rdck.ca/firesmart](https://rdck.ca/firesmart) emailing [firesmart@rdck.bc.ca](mailto: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.

### **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 outlined by your Wildfire Mitigation Specialist on this report is eligible for the rebate. Only work completed within 30m of the home is eligible for a 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 the table found on pages 2 and 3, 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.

### **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 1<sup>st</sup> through to October 31<sup>st</sup> 2024. If you don't get your application in by October 31<sup>st</sup> you can continue to work on it throughout the winter and spring and apply once the rebate intake begins next time.

### **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. Any rebate application totaling \$1000 or more will require a quick 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.

### 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 in 2024 you will need to work with your Wildfire Mitigation Specialist to complete Rebate Work Plan document to approve the planned work

### 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 it is ok, you will be able to resubmit that rebate application the following year and access the rebate then. In the past we have not hit the maximum and have not had to limit rebates due to the budget.

### 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 Home Partners 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](mailto: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](#)

**For more information**  
[firesmart@rdck.bc.ca](mailto:firesmart@rdck.bc.ca) | 250.352.1539 | or visit [www.rdck.ca/firesmart](http://www.rdck.ca/firesmart)