
Mostly DIY: adding 1/8”
hardware cloth to house vents

House has five attic gable vents with ¼” screen.
One vent is two stories up.

Foundation vents (12 on house) and crawlspace cover were also all ¼”

Luckily, the small attic vents were already 1/8”

Arrows show attic vents which already had 1/8”. Redwood lattice (bottom) was very old and dry and has been replaced with plastic lattice. We will box in underneath the deck surface.

These small attic round vents already had 1/8” screen.

The vent covers were old (from 1988)
and they pulled right off (nails had rusted).

But this is what it looked like off.

I checked out what B&C ACE Home Supply had

This was not going to work

Plenty of room to add 1/8” material inside the frame

- Decided to attach 1/8” **hardware cloth** (stores **don’t** call it “screening”) inside each foundation vent with a staple gun, then just re-attach.

- Paid our handyman/contractor to go into attic to staple the material over the inside of existing gable vents.

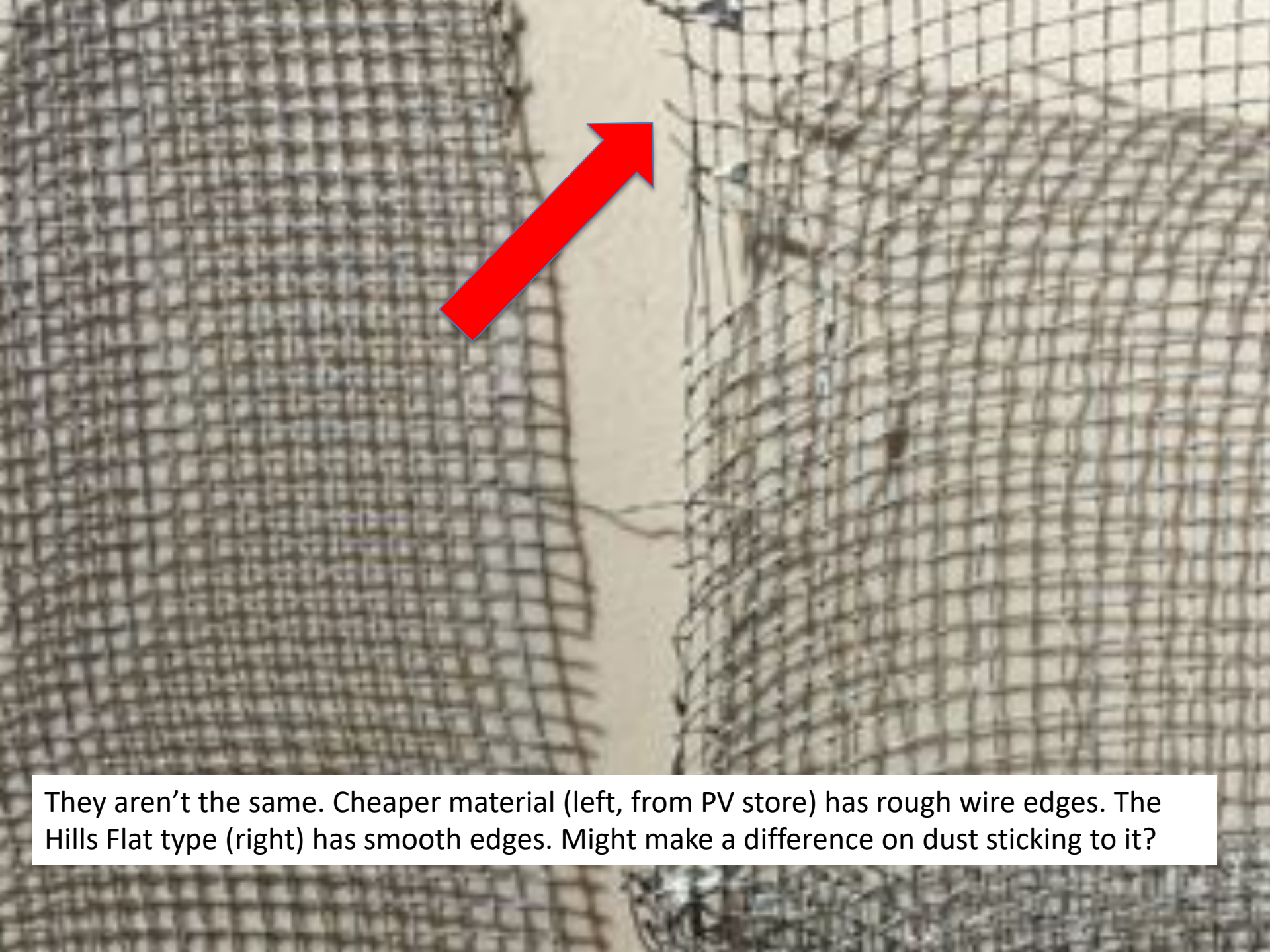
- Calculated how much material I would need for all the vents (square feet)

Prices and types differ. Call ahead to check stock.

- B&C had only 4” wide on a roll, sometimes also has 6” on roll. Yardman said they’d had it in a 3-foot-wide but not in stock.

- Bought 3-foot wide at Hills Flat, $2.99/sq ft

- Bought 4-foot wide at Penn Valley True Value, $1.99/sq ft (half price of above)



They aren’t the same. Cheaper material (left, from PV store) has rough wire edges. The Hills Flat type (right) has smooth edges. Might make a difference on dust sticking to it?

Aluminum window screen is cheaper but NOT recommended unless you can commit to ongoing, long-term maintenance so ventilation is not impaired.

For gable vents, I cut 24” x 24” oversize mats for handyman to staple from the inside. I put blue masking tape on sharp raw wire edges to made them safer to handle in a difficult work environment.

He caulked along the bottom (see white jagged line) so case embers couldn’t get in and fall to the inside.

My work space prep with portable sawhorses and plywood “tabletop”

Tools & supplies needed

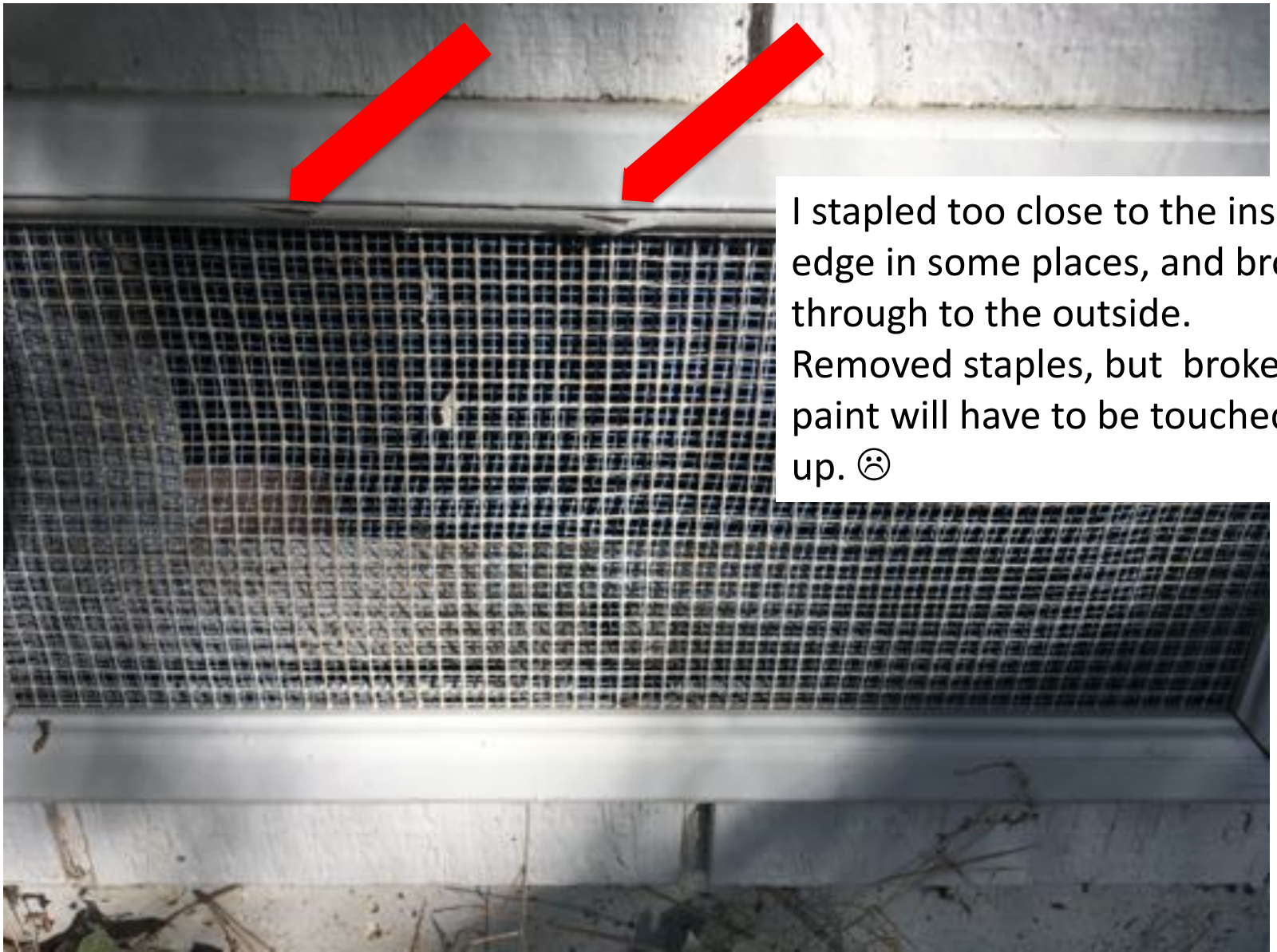
You'll need pliers, too. And something to protect your clothes from dozens of sharp raw wire ends.

When I removed each vent cover, I identified its location, so I could easily re-attach it using the same nail holes.

- I measured the rolled material on the work table, marked cutting lines with the Sharpie, and cut it with the wire scissors.
- Precise measuring wasn’t necessary, it just needed to fit within the inside frame edges.
- Safety goggles protected eyes from tiny flying wire ends if I had to trim edges to fit.

New screen stapled over old

How it looks re-attached



I stapled too close to the inside edge in some places, and broke through to the outside. Removed staples, but broken paint will have to be touched up. ☹

Next job: caulk T-111 gaps behind vents, so embers can’t lodge there.

Also had roof places screened.

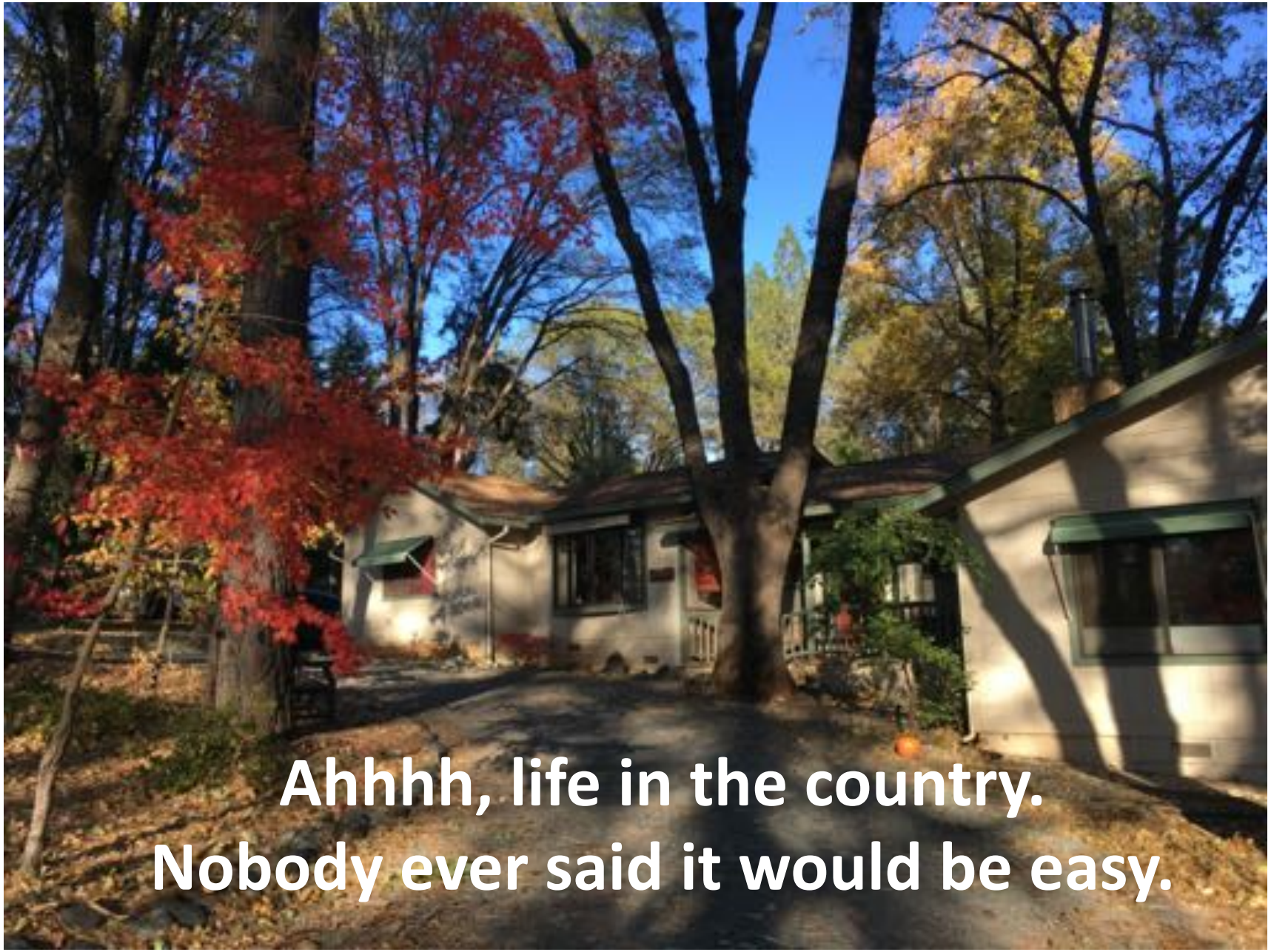
An overlapping roofline corner screened

I feel a little safer now.

But there’s more to do.

Split roofline creates multiple hazards

Leaves collect in corners ☹


Ahhhh, life in the country.
Nobody ever said it would be easy.