

Before You Grab That Chainsaw...

Here Are Some Alternatives to Cutting Down Trees



There are many reasons why homeowners may consider cutting down a tree. Perhaps the tree appears unhealthy, is impairing views, or has dangerous broken limbs. However, there are many other solutions to these challenges.

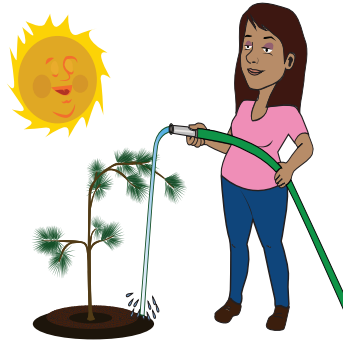
Depending on which of these are at the “root” of your problem, take a look to see some alternatives to chopping down trees!

Improve Tree Conditions

A tree may be lacking nutrients, air, or water. Basic tree care, such as mulching, aerating the soil, fertilizing, or watering, can drastically improve the health of a tree.

Consider **improving tree conditions** if:

- Leaves or needles of the tree appear yellow
- Foliage is sparse or dropping out of season
- Tree growth is stunted



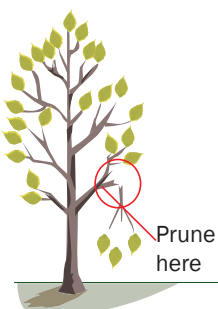
Crown Cleaning

Proper pruning can remove crowded, dying, broken, or diseased branches and improve the health of a tree.

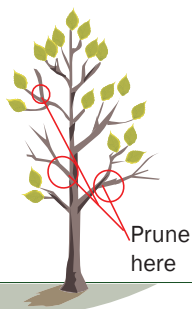
Consider **crown cleaning** if:

- There is damage to a tree after a storm
- There are dead or dying branches
- Branches are growing too close together
- Foliage in the tree center appears unhealthy
- The plant has diseased leaves or branches
- The tree has two leaders

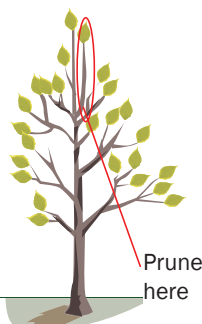
Broken Limbs



Dead Limbs



Two Leaders



Vista Pruning

Vista pruning (also called tree windowing) allows a tree to remain in place while removing branches and foliage to improve a view.

Consider **vista pruning** if:

- There are side branches on a tree or several trees that block a view



Crown Reduction

Crown reduction decreases the height or width of a tree without topping.

Consider **crown reduction** if:

- The top of a tree blocks a view
- A tree is growing too close to a building
- A tree is growing too close to a utility line



Prune no more than 25% of the crown per year.

Crown Raising

A tree’s lower branches may be blocking lines of sight or hindering traffic. Crown raising removes lower branches from trees. This can improve safety and aesthetics.

Consider **crown raising** if:

- A tree is impeding pedestrian or vehicle traffic
- Lower branches are affecting a view



Planning for the Future...

To prevent tree problems before they begin, always choose the right tree for the right place. When planting, think long term. Consider a tree's height and width at maturity, how much room the roots will need, and what the tree might impede as it grows. Keep in mind the benefits of trees, and how to plant trees to enhance, rather than detract from, the existing environment. The chainsaw will never be called on when the right tree is planted in the right place in the first place.



Before you undertake a large-scale pruning project, please contact the City of Edmonds Development Services Department.

<http://www.edmondswa.gov/development-services-department.html>

Find an arborist licensed by the International Society of Arboriculture for professional pruning or if you are concerned about the health of a tree.

<http://www.isa-arbor.com/findanarborist/arboristsearch.aspx>

Did you know...?

A single large tree can consume 48lbs of carbon dioxide per year. An acre of trees absorbs enough CO₂ over 1 year to equal the amount produced by driving a car 26,000 miles.

Improve air quality

Decrease energy costs

Decrease crime rates in urban environments

Provide windbreaks

Regulate temperatures

Enhance views and urban aesthetics

Provide oxygen

Provide privacy

Increase property values

Improve mental health

Provide wildlife habitat

Sequester carbon

Filter stormwater and decrease storm runoff and floods

Block noise pollution



The Edmonds Citizens' Tree Board actively encourages the planting, protecting, and maintaining of trees for long-term community benefit.



Distributed by the Citizens' Tree Board
City of Edmonds

