

Tree Removal Information Guide



The City of Kirkland has a goal of improving tree canopy coverage. To address this goal, Kirkland Zoning Code Chapter 95 regulates tree removals and requires permitting and replacement of removed trees.

Visit kirklandwa.gov/trees and review [Kirkland Zoning Code Chapter 95](#) for complete code requirements

Measuring Your Tree

Diameter at Breast Height (DBH)

DBH is the standard measurement of tree size and is measured 54 inches (4.5 feet) above the ground.

How to measure your tree:

1) Wrap a soft measuring tape around the tree trunk at 4.5 feet above the ground to find the circumference. For trees with multiple trunks at 4.5 feet height, only trunks 3" DBH or greater should be measured.

2) Convert the circumference to diameter using an online calculator or by dividing the circumference by 3.14 (pi).

Example: Circumference = 100" / 3.14 = 31.8" DBH tree.

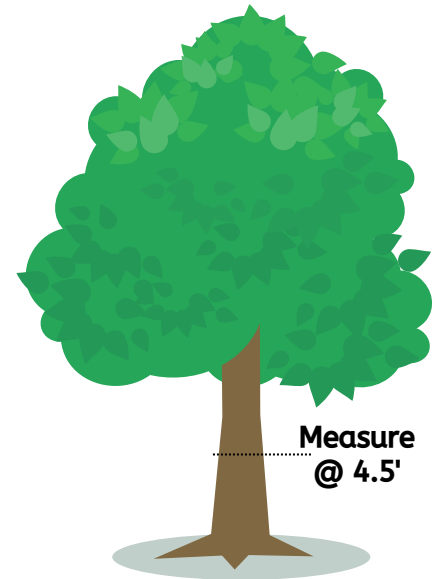
3) When a tree splits into several trunks, the DBH for the tree is the square root of the sum of the DBH for each individual stem, squared.

Example: $DBH = \sqrt{(Stem\ 1)^2 + (Stem\ 2)^2}$

What is a Regulated Tree?

6" diameter (DBH) or larger is a **Regulated Tree**

26" diameter (DBH) or larger is a **Landmark Tree**



Landmark Trees have unique regulations. Review the [Landmark Tree Removal Guide](#) (kirklandwa.gov/landmarktrees) for more information.

Try this calculator tool!



Click Here

Finding an Arborist

When submitting a tree removal permit to the City for hazard/nuisance trees, the applicant must hire a Qualified Professional Arborist certified by the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA), or equivalent. For hazard trees, the Qualified Professional Arborist must have current Tree Risk Assessment Qualification (TRAQ) credentials.

To find a qualified arborist, visit treesaregood.org and use the [Find an Arborist Tool](#).

What Type of Permit Do I Need?

The type of permit varies depending on the size of tree and whether any special conditions are present, such as critical areas.



[Click Here
Interactive Tree
Permit Guide](#)

Use the City's [Interactive Tree Permit Guide](#) (kirklandwa.gov/treepermitsguide) to determine which permit type is required and how to submit permits online.

Private Tree Removal Notification

Property owner's may remove a certain number of trees every 12 months using the free notification process as long as the following conditions are true:

- The tree is not a Landmark Tree (26" DBH or larger)
- There are no critical areas or associated buffers
- You have not exceeded the 12 month tree removal allowances for the lot
- The property has no other special conditions, such as a Tree Maintenance Agreement, Grove Covenant, Holmes Point Overlay, or Shoreline setback

Lot Size (square feet)	Allowed removals per 12 months*
Up to 10,000	2 trees
10,001 to 20,000	3 trees
20,001 or greater	4 trees

*Properties must also retain a minimum of 2, 3 or 4 trees based on lot size to qualify for tree removal allowances

[Click button for more info or visit \[kirklandwa.gov/treenotifications\]\(http://kirklandwa.gov/treenotifications\)](#)



[Tree Removal Notification Guide](#)

Private Tree Removal Permit

For all other tree removals that do not fall into the notification category, property owner's must submit a paid permit & hire a Qualified Professional Arborist to prepare documentation that confirms the tree(s) meet the City's hazard or nuisance tree criteria.

Conditions that require a permit include:

Tree Size or Critical Areas

- Landmark Trees (26" DBH or larger)
- Critical Areas & Buffers
 - Streams, Wetlands, Landslide Hazards
- Shoreline setback (200' of shoreline)

Zoning & Development

- Developed within 5 years with recorded Tree Maintenance Agreement
- Holmes Point Overlay (HPO)
- Recorded Grove Covenant
- Required landscaping for multifamily, commercial, or industrial properties

Exceeded Allowances or Too Few Trees Based on Lot Size

- Exceeded 12 month tree removal allowances
- Does not meet minimum number of remaining trees

[For more information visit \[kirklandwa.gov/treepermits\]\(http://kirklandwa.gov/treepermits\) or click below](#)

[Tree Removal Permit Guide](#)

Helpful Tree Resources

Explore these resources to answer your tree-related questions. Still need more information? Call 425-587-3600 or stop by City Hall to speak with a planner. Questions can also be submitted through [Our Kirkland](#).

[Hours: Monday to Friday 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM, closed 8:00 AM - 10:00 AM on Wednesday's]

Visit the City of Kirkland [Trees Webpage](#) or explore links below

Private Trees

- [Interactive Tree Permit Guide](#)
- [Tree Removal FAQs](#)
- [Landmark Tree Permit Guide](#)
- [Tree Removal Notification Instruction Guide](#)
- [Tree Removal Permit Instruction Guide](#)
- [Tree Removal in Critical Areas or Buffers](#)

Plans & Documents

- [Guide to Arborist Reports](#)
- [Example Site Plan](#)
- [Example Tree Inventory Table](#)
- [Multi-Stem Tree Diameter Calculator](#)
- [Find an Arborist](#)

Public Trees

- [Interactive Tree Permit Guide](#)
- [Public Tree Pruning or Removal Permit Guide](#)

Tree & Plant Lists

- [Kirkland Plant Lists](#)

Property Information

- [Kirkland GIS Browser](#)
- [Kirkland Activity Map](#)

Permit Submittal

- [MyBuildingPermit](#)

City Programs

- [Tree Rebate](#)
- [Yard Smart Rain Rewards](#)