



Tree Trimming

Customer Information

Your help is important.

A year round, proactive tree trimming policy is a preventative measure, and customer cooperation has a major role in the policy's success!

- Call us or submit a tree trimming request online if you notice any tree branches within 10 feet of a power line or on a service drop (the power line that connects to a house or building). Do not attempt to trim these trees yourself.
- Do not plant large or fast-growing trees under or near existing power lines.
- Call Blue Stakes at 811 to locate underground power lines two days before planting trees.

(See Electric Service Rule No. 16 for the complete policy.)

When planting trees, be sure to consider the following:

The location of all existing power lines in the area.

The type of tree being planted and its proximity to the power line.

The required clearances. The National Electric Code (NEC) and the National Electric Safety Code (NESC) require that trees have a 10-foot clearance from all power lines. Clearance distance includes below, above and on either side of all power lines.

The future growth of the tree(s) being planted. Only plant trees that mature at 20 feet or less near power lines.

Visit the Arbor Day Foundation website (www.arborday.org) to verify the potential size and shape of specific trees before planting them.



Tree Trimming

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. Will I be notified before my tree is trimmed?

Yes, a 48-hour notice will be placed on your front door. We will proceed with the work if we have not heard otherwise from you after the 48-hour period.

Q. When will the tree trimming crew perform the work?

Tree trimming work will normally be done between 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Monday - Friday excluding holidays and emergencies. During emergency situations involving safety and/or power outages it may not be possible to notify customers prior to trimming trees and vegetation. Clean-up and disposal of tree limbs and debris from storm activity will be your responsibility.

Q. What if I don't want my tree trimmed?

For safety purposes, we are required to trim all trees that encroach into the 10-foot clearance safety zone.

Q. Will I be charged for the tree trimming on my property?

No, we will perform the tree trimming at no charge if the trimming is necessary for safe, reliable electric service. However, a customer may choose to hire their own certified professional tree trimming crew at their own expense.

Q. Will my trees be trimmed by professionals?

Yes, all our crews have at least one certified arborist.

Q. What will my tree look like after being trimmed?

Directional pruning concentrates on removing limbs back to a lateral branch. This type of pruning reduces how fast the tree grows back and directs most growth away from the power lines. We realize that the appearance of the tree may suffer, however this type of trimming is healthier than older techniques such as "Topping" or "Shading" methods.

Q. Will you remove my tree completely?

If the tree is deemed to be an ongoing problem, our crews may remove the tree completely with the customer's permission.

Q. Can I keep the wood from the trimmed tree?

Yes, you can request that our crews leave the wood from the trimmed tree(s).

Q. Where can I find information on what types of trees to plant under power lines?

For information about planting trees and tree growth patterns visit: Arbor Day Foundation (www.arborday.org), International Society of Arboriculture (www.isa-arbor.org), or Tree Care Industry Association (www.tcia.org)