

## WHO NEEDS A TREE REMOVAL PERMIT?

A tree removal permit is required for the removal of trees on residential and non-residential properties for all tree species, with the exception of exempted trees as defined by the Hillsborough County Land Development Code.

For **non-residential properties, developed or vacant**, all non-exempt trees with tree trunks measuring 5 inches diameter at breast height (DBH) (measured 4.5 feet above ground) or larger require a permit before the tree is removed. Dead trees do not require a permit; however, photo-documentation is encouraged prior to removal.

For **residential properties, vacant or under construction**, all non-exempt trees with tree trunks measuring 5 inches DBH or larger require a permit before the tree is removed. Dead trees do not require a permit; however, photo-documentation is encouraged prior to removal.

For **residential properties on which the principal dwelling exists**, all non-exempt trees with tree trunks measuring 12 inches DBH or larger require a permit before the tree is removed. Dead trees do not require a permit; however, photo-documentation is encouraged prior to removal.

## WHERE CAN I OBTAIN A TREE REMOVAL PERMIT APPLICATION FORM?

A *Tree Removal Application Packet* is available by accessing the Planning and Growth Management Department's website. The website address for the application packet is:

[www.hillsboroughcounty.org/pgm/resources/forms/landdevelopment/treeremovalpacket.pdf](http://www.hillsboroughcounty.org/pgm/resources/forms/landdevelopment/treeremovalpacket.pdf)

Note that the application must be printed, completed, and mailed with the permit application fee to the address indicated within the information packet, or brought to the Natural Resources Unit of the Planning and Growth Management Department, Transportation and Land Development Review Division. The Unit is located on the 19<sup>th</sup> floor of the County Center at 601 East Kennedy Boulevard in downtown Tampa.

"Hard copies" of the application may also be obtained from the 19<sup>th</sup> floor of the County Center

## HOW LONG DOES THE TREE REMOVAL PERMITTING PROCESS TAKE?

Under normal circumstances, the tree removal application is evaluated within 15 working days of receipt of the application by Natural Resources. If the removal request meets the permit criteria outlined in the Hillsborough County Land Development Code, then the permit will be left, if feasible, at the property, otherwise it will be mailed.

If a decision to not issue the permit is rendered, written communication will be mailed to the applicant.

The criteria to grant a permit are itemized in Section 4.01.14.A.4 of the Land Development Code. The Land Development Code can be accessed online via the following address:

[www.municode.com/resources/gateway.asp?pid=12399&sid=9](http://www.municode.com/resources/gateway.asp?pid=12399&sid=9)

## WHAT IS THE DURATION OF A TREE REMOVAL PERMIT?

A tree removal permit is valid for two years from the date of issuance.

## WHAT TREES ARE EXEMPT FROM PERMITTING?

| <u>Common Name</u> | <u>Botanical Name</u>                |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Australian Pine    | <i>Casuarina spp.</i>                |
| Brazilian Pepper   | <i>Schinus terebinthifolius</i>      |
| Catclaw Mimosa     | <i>Mimosa pigra</i>                  |
| Cherry Laurel      | <i>Prunus caroliniana</i>            |
| Chinaberry         | <i>Melia azedarach</i>               |
| Chinese tallow     | <i>Sapium sebiferum</i>              |
| Citrus Tree        | <i>Citrus spp.</i>                   |
| Earleaf Acacia     | <i>Acacia auriculiformis</i>         |
| Earpod Tree        | <i>Enterolobium contortisiliquum</i> |
| Eucalyptus         | <i>Eucalyptus spp.</i>               |
| Indian Rosewood    | <i>Dalbergia sissoo</i>              |
| Jacaranda          | <i>Jacaranda acutifolia</i>          |
| Lead Tree          | <i>Leucaena leucocephala</i>         |
| Monkey Puzzle      | <i>Araucaria araucana</i>            |
| Orchid Tree        | <i>Bauhinia variegata</i>            |
| Paper Mulberry     | <i>Broussonetia papyrifera</i>       |
| Punk Tree          | <i>Melaleuca quinquenervia</i>       |
| Queen Palm         | <i>Syagrus romanzoffiana</i>         |
| Silk Oak           | <i>Grevillea robusta</i>             |
| Surinam Cherry     | <i>Eugenia uniflora</i>              |
| Woman's Tongue     | <i>Albizia lebbek</i>                |

## WHAT IS THE FEE FOR A TREE REMOVAL PERMIT APPLICATION?

The fee is \$35, payable to the Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners (HCBOCC). Each application form must be accompanied with the application fee.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION:

**Tree Removal Information Line:  
(813) 307-4511**

(automated line; leave your contact information to have the tree removal permit application form sent to you)

**Planning and Growth Management  
Natural Resource Staff:  
(813) 272-5920**

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## NATURAL RESOURCES TREE REMOVAL PERMITTING



**Planning and Growth  
Management Department**