



Homeowners Guide to Olympia's Tree Protection Ordinance

Community Planning & Development
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 www.olympiawa.gov

Developed Single Family Property Properties Less than 2 Acres

Frequently Asked Questions:

Do I need a permit to remove a tree from my property?

A permit is not required to remove a tree if a minimum number of trees are maintained on the property.

What is the minimum number of trees I must maintain on my property?

You are required to maintain:

- The equivalent of 30 planted trees per acre
or
- One planted tree for every 1,500 square feet

Lot Size in Square Feet	Required Number of Planted Trees
0 - 1,500 sq. ft.	1 tree
1,501 - 3,000 sq. ft.	2 trees
3,001 - 4,500 sq. ft.	3 trees
4,501 - 6,000 sq. ft.	4 trees
6,001 - 7,500 sq. ft.	5 trees
7,501 - 9,000 sq. ft.	6 trees

Can I count my existing trees toward this minimum?

Yes. The following chart shows the value of existing trees in equivalent number of planted trees:

Existing Tree Trunk Diameter	Equivalent Number of Planted Trees
1-6"	1
6-12"	1 ½
14"	2
16"	3
18"	4
20"	5
22"	6
24"	7
26"	8
28"	9
30"	10
32"	11
34"	12
36"	13

If I am going to remove more trees than allowed, and drop below the minimum requirements, what do I do?

You will need to obtain a tree removal permit. The permit is available at the reception counter at Community Planning and Development, Smith Building, 837 7th Avenue SE. To apply for the permit you will need to do the following:

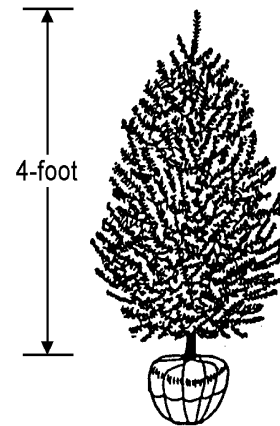
1. Prepare a tree plan for your property including the following information:
 - Show the outline of your property, and the approximate location of your house, driveway, street and any other improvements.
 - Show the approximate locations of trees to be planted and/or saved.
 - Indicate the approximate size and species of trees to be planted and/or saved.
2. The permit fee is \$50.00. Cash or Checks Only.
3. Plant the required number of trees to meet your minimum tree density.

Do I have to plant back any certain type of tree?

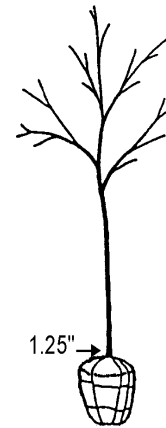
You can plant any species of tree, if it is appropriate for your site. Contact Stacey Ray, the City's Urban Forester, at (360) 753-8046 or sray@ci.olympia.wa.us to assist you in choosing the correct species of tree, or you can get a copy of the "Tree Planter's Guide" from the front counter of the Smith Building.

Is there a minimum size tree that I have to plant back?

Yes. Trees to be planted must meet the following size specifications:



Evergreen—4 foot tall minimum



Deciduous—1.25 inch caliper, branched

***Community Planning and Development, Smith Building
837 7th Avenue Olympia WA 98501 www.olympiawa.gov***