

DEFINITION OF TERMS

Hazardous Tree means a Tree that is in imminent danger of falling, as determined by the Director of Infrastructure Services or designate, or where a report prepared by a Certified Arborist has certified that the Tree is dead, diseased, damaged or otherwise constitutes a physical hazard to persons or property.

Heritage Tree means a designated Tree of significant value to the community because of special characteristics such as uniqueness of species, uniqueness of ecosystem, historical or landmark value.

Replacement Tree means a Tree required to be planted to replace a Tree that has been Cut, Removed or Damaged as per the Tree Preservation Bylaw.

Specimen Tree means a Tree of exceptional value because of its species, condition, form, age or size.

Wildlife Tree means any standing dead or live Tree that provides valuable habitat for the conservation or enhancement of wildlife.

** DBH is diameter of the stem of a Tree measured at breast height, or 1.3 metres (4 feet) above the natural grade on the uphill side of the Tree.*

Tree Cutting Permit Application Guide

When is a Tree Cutting Permit required?

You must get a Tree Cutting Permit and pay the required fees when you want to remove a Protected Tree. A Protected Tree is:

- any of the following trees with a *DBH of 20cm (8 in) or more:
 - o Arbutus
 - o Pacific Dogwood
 - o Pacific Yew
 - o Garry Oak
 - o Douglas Fir
 - o Western Red Cedar
 - o Bigleaf Maple
 - o Grand Fir
 - o Western Hemlock
 - o Yellow Cedar
 - o Balsam Fir
- any Tree having a *DBH of 10 cm (4 in) or more on slope greater than 20%
- any tree with a *DBH of 30 cm (12in) or more, regardless of species
- Any of the following tree seedlings with a height of more than 50cm (1.5 feet) and less than 5m (16.5 feet):
 - o Garry Oak
 - o Pacific Dogwood
 - o Arbutus
- any replacement, specimen, heritage, or wildlife tree

A Tree Cutting Permit may be issued if the Protected Tree is:

- Unhealthy and is not likely to recover
- Hazardous
- Damaging underground utilities or structures on the property and the problem cannot be resolved without removing the tree
- Preventing development or servicing of the property and there is no reasonable way to arrange the development or servicing while still retaining the tree



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Proper Pruning Techniques:

Cleaning: the removal of dead, dying, diseased, weakly attached, and low-vigor branches from the crown of a tree.

Thinning: selective branch removal to improve structure and to increase light penetration and air movement

Raising: removing the lower branches from a tree to provide clearance for buildings, vehicles, pedestrians, and views.

Reduction: reducing the size of a tree, often for utility line clearance. Compared to topping, reduction helps maintain the form and structural integrity of the tree.

TREE REMOVAL IN DPA 1 OR DPA 2

Tree removal in [DPA 1 Geotechnical Hazards Development Permit Areas](#) and [DPA 2 Environmentally Sensitive Development Permit Areas](#) require a Development Permit.

Please contact our Planning Department at Planning@gibsons.ca for more information.

Which activities are exempt from Permits and Fees?

Activity:	Permit Required	Fee Required
Proper pruning and maintenance of trees (see sidebar for definitions)	No	No
Hedge pruning	No	No
Removal of Invasive Plants	No	No
Hazardous Tree Removal	Yes	No
Protected Tree is located within the building envelope of a Lot	Yes	No
Tree is interfering with underground or overhead utilities or services	Yes	No
Removal for installation of roads or services in respect of a Subdivision	Yes	No
A Development Permit under DPA 1 or 2 has been issued which addresses the removal of the Protected Tree (see sidebar for more information)	No	No

How to obtain a tree cutting permit:

- Bring the completed Tree Cutting Permit application to Town Hall and pay the applicable fees (see table below). The application may be downloaded at gibsons.ca/tree-removal.
- Staff will then review the application. This may require a visit to the lot identified in the application.
- Staff will make a decision on the issuance of the permit and any accompanying conditions of the permit and notify the applicant.

Application Fees

Description	Fee	Unit
Tree Cutting Permit Application Fee (Non-Refundable)	\$50	Up to 3 Trees
Each additional tree	\$50	Each Tree
Tree Cutting Permit Application Fee Hazardous Tree	No Fee	
Security Deposit for Replacement Trees (Private Land)	\$300	Each Tree
Payment in Lieu for Replacement Trees (Public Land)	\$300	Each Tree

For further information on, or assistance with, your Tree Cutting Permit Application, please contact the Infrastructure Services Department by email at infrastructure@gibsons.ca.

