

# Tree Preservation Bylaw: Frequently Asked Questions

## Do I need a permit to prune my trees?

No, you are permitted to prune your trees using proper pruning techniques. [Learn about proper pruning techniques here.](#)

## Do I need a permit to top my trees?

The Town does not permit the topping of protected trees and strongly advises against the topping of all other trees. Topping is perhaps the most harmful tree pruning practice known. Yet, despite more than 25 years of literature and seminars explaining its harmful effects, topping remains a common practice. Learn more about [Why Topping Hurts Trees here.](#)

## What if my trees have previously been topped?

A permit is not required to top trees that have been topped before. However, we strongly encourage corrective pruning over topping to encourage better health of your tree.

## Do we need a permit to cut if our tree qualifies as a hazardous tree?

Yes, you need a permit, but no fee is required. The Town of Gibsons continually assesses the health of our urban forest and canopy cover, and tracking tree removals is a key part of that process.

## What is the cost for a tree-cutting permit?

\$50 for the first 3 trees, and \$50 for each tree after that. There is no permit fee for hazardous tree removal.

## Does an employee of the Town of Gibsons need to inspect the tree(s) prior to cutting?

Yes, staff may need to conduct a site visit before the tree is removed.

## Do we have to replace the tree if it was deemed hazardous?

Replacement trees are not required following the removal of a hazardous tree.

## On private property, whose responsibility is it to declare a tree a “hazardous” tree?

A tree may be declared “hazardous” by a Certified Arborist (one in good standing with the International Society of Arboriculture) or the Town of Gibsons’ Director of Infrastructure Services or their designate.

**Please direct further questions to the Town’s *Natural Asset Technician* by email at [infrastructure@gibsons.ca](mailto:infrastructure@gibsons.ca) or by phone at 604.886.2274.**

