



DO I NEED A PERMIT TO CUT DOWN A TREE?

WHY DO YOU NEED A PERMIT?

WHAT IS NEEDED?

DO I NEED A PERMIT TO TRIM A TREE?



Committed to quality customer service.

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BUILDING AND PLANNING DEPARTMENT

PERMITTING HOURS:
8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Monday through Friday

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#Pinecresting

THE RULES FOR CUTTING, PRUNING AND REMOVING TREES



BUILDING AND PLANNING DEPARTMENT. GET INFORMED!



DO I NEED A PERMIT TO CUT DOWN A TREE?

YES

A tree removal permit is required for the removal or relocation of any tree not specifically exempted by the Village of Pinecrest. A tree removal permit application may be obtained from the Village's web site at www.pinecrest-fl.gov/home/showdocument?id=9081 or picked up at the Building and Planning Department located at 12645 Pinecrest Parkway, Pinecrest, Florida.

DEAD TREES/INVASIVE TREES

When removing dead trees, and invasive trees such as Bishopwood, Laurel Fig, Carrotwood, Brazilian Pepper, Mahoe, Schefflera or Hong Kong Orchid trees, the Village requires that a property owner submit a tree removal application to allow for inspection by the Village's arborist prior to removal. The Village will not assess a permit fee. Replacement may be required. A complete list of exempt trees and the tree removal application may be obtained online at www.pinecrest-fl.gov/home/showdocument?id=9081.

DANGEROUS TREES

A tree removal permit may not be required for the removal of a tree located on residential property provided the owner submits documentation from an arborist certified by the International Society of Arboriculture, or a Florida licensed landscape architect certifying that the tree presents a danger to persons or property. Although a permit or tree replacement may not be required, a property owner is responsible for maintenance of minimum trees and landscaping required by applicable development orders.

WHY DO YOU NEED A PERMIT?

The maintenance of the existing tree canopy is a priority for the Village as it preserves the overall aesthetic values of Pinecrest and provides great benefit to the overall environment. The removal of a specimen trees (a tree with a diameter over 18 inches measured at four feet from the ground) and non-specimen trees destroys shade and animal habitat, negatively impacting the overall environment. However, in some cases it is necessary to remove a potential hazard that could cause safety concerns. Each application is carefully reviewed by staff to determine if the removal or relocation is warranted, and if a permit is required.

WHAT IS NEEDED?

Fill out the application in full and submit two copies of a tree survey and/or a survey of your property that shows the location of the tree; provide the tree name, height, diameter and the size of canopy and reason way it needs to be removed. If the Village determines that the tree may be removed, then a fee will be assessed and a new tree planting plan must be submitted in order to replace the lost canopy. For instance, if a property owner wanted to remove a non-specimen shade tree with a 30-foot canopy due to an addition, the Village would require the property owner to replace 1,413 square feet of canopy on their property. The 1,413 square feet is equivalent to three, 14 foot 3 inch diameter shade trees. The calculation of the amount of replacement is double the canopy for non-specimen size trees and double the diameter of the tree for specimen size trees.

DO I NEED A PERMIT TO TRIM A TREE?

COMMERCIAL DISTRICTS – YES

A permit is required to trim or prune trees adjacent to Pinecrest Parkway (US 1) or anywhere within the Village's commercial zoning districts.

RESIDENTIAL DISTRICTS - NO

A permit to trim or prune trees within the residential districts of the Village is not required. However, proper tree trimming techniques must be adhered to in order to avoid fines. Property owners will be required to replace canopy lost by improper pruning. The term "hat rack" is used when a tree has been flat-cut, severing the leader or leaders, or simply when any branch three inches or greater is removed. It is illegal to hat rack a tree. No more than one-fourth of a tree's living canopy may be removed within a one-year period. When having your trees trimmed, make sure to select a qualified landscape arborist to trim your tree properly. A brochure on proper trimming techniques is available at the Village Hall and provides additional information on this subject.

TREE TRIMMER REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Commercial arborists and tree trimmers are required to be registered with the Village of Pinecrest. Registration forms may be obtained online or from the Building and Planning Department.

The process of obtaining a tree removal permit is easy. If you plan to remove or trim a tree, please take the time to call Village staff to ensure that your plans comply with applicable rules. This will help the Village reduce the illegal removal of trees and preserve the environment for future generations.

