Committed to quality customer service.

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Guido H. Inguanzo, Jr., CMC, Village Clerk
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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?

BUILDING AND PLANNING DEPARTMENT

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

Pinecrest Municipal Center
12645 Pinecrest Parkway
Pinecrest, FL 33156

TEL 305.234.2121
FAX 305.234.2133
planning@pinecrest-fl.gov

www.pinecrest-fl.gov

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](http://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](http://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.

**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.

**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.

**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.