

TREE REMOVAL GUIDE

Don't cut down that tree or hire a tree service company until you read this guide to proper tree removal.

Even dedicated DIYers should think twice before taking on the task of tree removal. The work involves specific skills, tools, and safety precautions, and mistakes can be devastating and dangerous.

Our guide will help you decide whether to hire a tree service and how to get the most value for your money.

Joyce Kilmer may never have seen a poem as lovely as a tree. She probably never had to deal with an uncooperative tree on her property, either, one that was dead, dying, or threatening to overgrow into nearby power lines. Removing a tree from the landscape can be a necessary undertaking, but it's a serious and risky one too. A reputable tree service company can inspect the problem and help you make the best decision for you and your tree.

Does the tree really need to be removed?

Removal should be a last resort. Well-cared-for trees can add financial value and natural beauty to your property. They also support the local ecology. Do your research when calling on a tree service. A general contractor with a chainsaw may immediately suggest removal as the answer to any tree problem, but an experienced arborist will be able to diagnose and treat damage and possibly preserve your tree. An arborist evaluates the age of the tree, the depth of its roots of the tree are, the impact it would have on its surroundings if it falls, and what equipment would be required to remove it without damage to your property.



DIY or hire a professional?

Consider these questions before attempting tree removal on your own.

- **Do I have the time and energy to do this myself?**
- **Do I own a chainsaw and feel comfortable using it?**
- **Can I keep both feet on solid ground while felling the tree?**
If removing a tree's branches would require use of a ladder, hire a professional. Limbs of larger trees have to be taken down carefully, with guide ropes and special equipment.
- **What condition is the tree in?**
If the tree is dead, hollow, infested with termites, or was struck by lightning, its condition make removal unpredictable and dangerous. In these cases, it's far safer to hire a professional.
- **Are there obstacles that falling branches could land on?**
If the tree is near your house or another standing structure, it will be much trickier to bring down safely. If it is interfering with utility lines, contact the utility company.
- **Are there main branches that can be removed methodically?**
Trees do not always fall in a predictable way. Without a proper understanding of tree physics, you could miscalculate and have a large branch hit something important when it falls. Like your head.
- **Is there red tape involved?**
If the tree is on or near a property line, the decision to remove it does not entirely rest with the homeowner. Sometimes neighbors, homeowners' associations, and local government have to be involved. A responsible tree service company can help the homeowner obtain necessary inspections and permits and coordinate a schedule for removal.



Choosing a Reputable Specialist for Tree Removal

Check a company's credentials and licensure, and the employees' skill level. Does the company hire workers with many years of experience? Do they have an arborist on staff?

Look into whether the company has insurance and workman's comp, too. Even in the best circumstances and among the most seasoned professionals, accidents can and do happen. You want to make sure that their workers — and your property — are fully protected.

When getting quotes, ask if stump removal is included in the cost. As many homeowners learn the hard way, tree stumps are nearly impossible to get rid of without the right tools and equipment. Stump removal chemicals are available at garden stores, and these can be a viable option, as long as you aren't in a rush. Depending on its size, a stump may require months or even years of treatment to completely disintegrate. Take caution around the stump, too, because the chemical can be toxic to children, pets, and surrounding soil.

When collecting quotes from companies, try to be as specific as possible about your needs. This will help you avoid surprises down the road. Most companies will give homeowners several options regarding the lumber. Do you want everything hauled away? Or do you want the tree to be harvested into useable timber and firewood? Ask your professional about the different options and costs for each.

If you are considering DIY or professional tree removal, contact Elite Tree Service first. We will give you a free evaluation and estimate.



About Elite Tree Care

Elite Tree Care, LLC is family owned and operated. A close-knit team of professional members of the International Society of Arboriculture, PA Certified and Licensed Applicators and with over 30 years of experience, Elite Tree Care has grown into one of the most well-respected tree care services in the Southeast Pennsylvania Region.

At Elite we are committed to continuing education and state of the art equipment to provide expert care for the trees and shrubs on your property. Guided by the belief that good service means respect for the customer as well as the tree, Elite Tree Care is a client-focused company striving to provide excellent service and develop long-term relationships within the community.

Get a FREE Quote Today! Visit:
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\$175 Off Tree Care Service

Order service from Elite Tree Care and get \$175 off any service over \$1,000!

Or **\$275** off any service over \$2,000! See the difference a local, family owned and operated tree care provider can make in the care of your home and property. All of our professional arborists are trained to handle the unique conditions of the Southeastern Pennsylvania region in order to optimize results.

Not to be combined with any other offers.

Please mention this offer when you call or speak to a representative about your quote.