



DDOT Trees

Permits and Laws

Tree Permits

tops.ddot.dc.gov | DDOT Permits Office - 1100 4th Street SW, 2nd Floor

Public Space Tree Permit

A Public Space Tree Permit is required to plant (\$0 permit fee), prune (\$75 permit fee) or remove (\$100 permit fee) any tree in the public right-of-way. Once permitted, the fee schedule to remove a healthy tree, measured at 4.5 feet above grade, is as follows:

Total # of Inches Removed

2-to-6 inch diameter
6.1-to-12 inch diameter
12.1 inch diameter and up

Compensation

\$90 per inch diameter
\$100 per inch diameter
\$110 per inch diameter

Special Tree Removal Permit

In order to protect the District's canopy and its largest trees, individuals must receive a permit to remove any tree in Washington, DC that is larger than 55 inches circumference (measured around the trunk at 4.5 feet from the ground). Permits are issued under at least one of the following conditions:

- An International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) arborist deems the tree is hazardous to life and /or property;
- The tree is of a species exempt from the law: Tree of heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*), mulberry (*Morus* species), or Norway maple (*Acer platanoides*);
- The property owner declares on the permit application to (a) plant a quantity of saplings whose aggregated circumference equals or exceeds the circumference of the Special Tree to be removed, (b) pay into the Tree Fund a tree replacement fee of **\$35 per inch of circumference** for each Special Tree to be removed, or (c) perform a combination of both (a) and (b).

Failure to comply will result in a violation subject to a fine of **not less than \$100 per each inch of tree circumference.**

For adjacent private property tree issues, contact the Multi-Door Dispute Resolution Division at DC Superior Court.



Construction Zone Protection

All construction projects in the vicinity of a street tree must erect 4-foot tall orange fencing that protects the *Critical Root Zone (CRZ)* of the tree from construction activity and equipment.

- CRZ = 1 foot of protection as measured from the base of the tree for every inch of trunk diameter.
- If the full CRZ cannot be protected, a rigid 4-foot tall structure with 2x4 inch framing covered by stapled orange fencing must encompass a minimum area of 4x9 feet or the full size of the tree box, whichever is larger.

Ornamental Fencing for Tree Boxes

Ornamental fencing protects trees from compaction and damage. A permit is required to install a fence taller than 12 inches except 18 inch tall fencing made to DDOT specifications pictured at right. For more fence specifications, please visit ddot.dc.gov/trees under Rules and Regulations.



Female Ginkgo Tree Spraying and Removal

Female Ginkgo Spraying

DDOT currently uses a mild pesticide to prevent the odorous female ginkgo fruits from forming each spring. Visit ddot.dc.gov/trees under Female Ginkgo Tree Removal Policy for a map of trees that are sprayed as well as detailed label information about the Shield Potato Sprout Inhibitor used. You may also call 202-671-5133 for this information.

Female Ginkgo Removal

Some residents are not satisfied with fruit spraying because the treatment is not always effective and sometimes difficult to complete within the tight seasonal timeframe available; still others are concerned about pesticide use. Residents of a block may submit a petition for consideration if 60% of property owners support removal of a female ginkgo (multi-unit buildings are granted one vote by the governing body). Visit ddot.dc.gov/trees for more information.

Ash Tree Wood Quarantine

To prevent the spread of Emerald Ash Borer, wood from ash trees cannot be moved outside a federal quarantine area in the Northeast and upper Midwest (see map under Tree Diseases at ddot.dc.gov/trees). The infestation is most visible through “D” shaped holes in tree bark or the 1/2 inch emerald green insect. Report potential sightings to 311.

