



Timber Harvest / Tree Removal

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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#1 My Neighbor Is Removing Trees. How Can I Verify That The Removal Is Authorized?

Some tree removal does not require a permit. (see below) For tree removal that requires a permit, the DCD Forest Practices [website page](#) provides a *Tree Removal Activity Locator*. This mapping tool allows you to search by address or zip code and view all Kitsap County active tree removal permits. If you have additional questions or concerns, please phone Kitsap 1 at 360-337-5777, or email help@kitsap1.com.

#2 Does DCD Manage Road Damage That Occurs During Logging Activity?

DCD does not monitor or enforce road maintenance for logging activity. If road damage occurs during logging, the resolution of such damage is a private or civil issue.

If you are aware of logging that will occur, it is recommended that you videotape the condition of the roadway before the logging begins and speak to the responsible parties, regarding the record of the road's condition and to ascertain the existence of a road maintenance agreement.

#3 Can I remove a tree on my property without a permit?

Projects which meet **all** of the criteria listed below, do not require a permit.

- There are no critical areas on-site (including Wildlife Habitat Conservation Areas).
- The trees are not perimeter buffer trees that were required as part of a plat.
- The trees are near a residence (within one tree length and a half)
- Tree removal is for less than 5,000 board feet of timber.
- A tree service will be removing the trees in non-merchantable pieces.
- Stumps are retained, and no grading or earthwork is proposed.

However, please note that there are occasions when Kitsap County Code does not require a permit, but the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) may require a permit. Even if you believe your project meets these criteria, consult DCD before removing trees to avoid unauthorized removal.

#4 I'm Removing Trees to Build A Home. What permit is required?

Trees removal to build a residence may utilize the Site Evaluation Permit for Danger Tree Removal.

When removing trees for this purpose, DCD recommends that you plan the removal in conjunction with acquiring your building site permit and determining your stormwater management plan.

If the tree(s) you'd like to remove are located greater than a tree length and one-half from the home, the removal requires a Timber Harvest Permit.

#5 Can I remove a tree that is located within a critical area?

Trees located in critical areas (areas containing streams, wetlands, slopes, Wildlife Habitat Conservation areas, or other designated land features) typically are **not** permitted to be removed.

If a tree(s) located in a critical area poses an imminent threat to your home or structure, an Arborist Risk Assessment report, or other reports by a qualified professional, may be required to determine an appropriate course of action.



#6 If a tree poses a hazard to my property, can it be removed?

If a tree on your property is an imminent threat to habitable structures, depending upon the specific conditions, it may be removed. Please [click here](#) to review the Site Evaluation Permit for Danger Tree removal on the DCD Forest Practices website page.

#7 I want to remove trees to enhance my view, is that ok?

Before cutting or trimming trees to enhance a view, you should schedule a View Enhancement Site Evaluation Permit. Keep in mind that some trees cannot be removed to enhance a view, for example, if they are in a required native vegetation buffer or a critical area such as a wetland or steep slope. If you live near a shoreline, trees and vegetation within the required shoreline vegetation buffer must also be retained.

#8 Can I remove trees before I get my Building Permit?

Clearing is best reviewed along with the building permit application for several reasons, including erosion control and future stormwater management. However, tree clearing prior to a building permit can be authorized through a **Site Evaluation Permit** (Danger Tree Harvest). Even if no building permit is associated with the clearing, special reports may still be required for any critical areas and an approved septic design.

#9 Can I remove stumps?

Stump removal requires a Site Development Activity Permit. Under a danger tree permit, stumps may not be removed.

#10 Do I need to replant new trees after I remove them?

For any tree removal, even when no permit is required, trees that are removed must be replaced at a 2:1 ratio. When more than 5,000 board feet of lumber is harvested, a permit is required from DNR. A reinspection to replant the site is always required in these cases.

#11 When do I need a Tree Harvest Permit from the County? Do I also need approval from Department of Natural Resources? (DNR)

If you are removing more than 5,000 board feet of timber, a Tree Harvest Permit is required from Kitsap County. This would also require a permit from DNR on any property greater than 2 acres.

Clearing of over 5,000 board feet will also require reporting to the WA State Department of Revenue for tax purposes. Failure to get the correct permits could result in a 6-year development moratorium on the property.

#12 How Can I Verify If A Property Has A Moratorium In Effect?

The Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) provides a logging permit search tool: [here](#). The permit will identify whether the owner planned to “convert.” If the property owner checked “no,” then DNR will likely require replanting, and the moratorium is automatically applied at the local level.