



Department of Permitting Services
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Trees on Private Property

Answers to Frequently Asked Questions

This flyer does not reflect municipality and home owner association rules and regulations. If you live in a homeowner association or a municipality please consult their regulations.

Question: Can I remove, plant, prune, or maintain a tree(s) on my property?

Answer: If the tree is wholly on your property, you do not currently need a permit or other authorization from Montgomery or State of Maryland as long as the lot is smaller than 40,000 square feet (about 1 acre). We recommend that you consult a State of Maryland, Department of Natural Resources Licensed Tree Expert prior to pruning a tree to ensure the tree will not die as a result of the pruning.

Question: Can I prune the branches of a tree or cut the roots of a tree that is planted on my next door neighbor's property and extend into my yard?

Answer: Yes, you can prune the branches of a tree hanging over your property. However, be cautious and consult a State of Maryland, Department of Natural Resources Licensed Tree Expert prior to pruning to ensure the tree will not die as a result of the pruning. If the branches are dead, you should file a complaint with 311 because they may fall and damage property.

Question: When do I need a permit to remove trees from my property?

Answer: Any person who expects to cut, clear, or grade more than 5,000 square feet of forest or any champion tree may need approval from MNCPPC. Please contact the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission at 301 495-4540 for further information.