



TREE REMOVAL

City of La Center, Planning Services
305 NW Pacific Highway
La Center, WA 98629
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The Basics

You may remove one or two trees (up to 10 inches in diameter at breast height) from your property each year without the need for a permit. We ask that they be replaced, but we do not require it.

What if it's bigger?

If the tree is greater than 10 inches in diameter, you will need a city permit to remove it. If the tree is not obviously dead or hazardous to city staff, you will likely be required to obtain a qualified arborist's report confirming the hazard potential.

You are required to replace these trees with a deciduous or evergreen tree of your choice. If you don't have room on your property for these replacements, the city will place them in city-owned parks or open space.

Topping Trees

Topping cuts create entry points for decay, which affect the structural integrity of the tree. Topping a tree is prohibited except where a tree is under utility lines, and then only where other pruning practices are impractical. Topping nearly guarantees a hazardous tree. The city may allow a tree to be topped in an open space or undeveloped area to maintain a "snag" for wildlife habitat.

Why is this so important?

Yes, raking leaves is a royal pain (the city does it too)! Yet trees are our largest single source of breathable oxygen. The physical effects of trees—the shade (solar regulation), humidity, wind, stormwater and erosion control, evaporative cooling, sound and visual screening, traffic control, pollution absorption and precipitation—all have economic benefits. In the Pacific Northwest, a single large tree can add 1% to your property value!¹

But I still have questions!

Please contact the Public Works Department located at 305 NW Pacific Highway, La Center, WA 98629
T/ 360.263.7665 F/ 360.263.7666

¹ http://www.fs.fed.us/psw/programs/uesd/uep/products/18/812uesd_uep_tpub_PacificNorthwest.pdf