

When Can Protected Trees be Trimmed?

Trimming can occur when necessary but will require permits if the work is significant. Please check with the Planning Division before doing any trimming. While modest pruning may occur without a permit, International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) pruning practices must always be used to protect the tree's health. No climbing spurs can be used by the tree trimmers.

What are ISA Standards?

The International Society of Arboriculture sets tree trimming standards to protect the health of trees. Qualified Tree Trimmers (QTT's) are required to be familiar with the standards.

Who May Work on Protected Trees?

The property owner (or property resident, with the owner's written consent) or a Qualified Tree Trimmer (QTT) may work on a tree. Anyone may remove a tree once the Planning Division grants approval. All QTT's must be certified and registered with the Planning Division. Property owners should insist on seeing a QTT's county certification before work is done on protected trees. For information on certification of QTT's, please call the Planning Division at (805) 654-2451, or visit our website at www.ventura.org/rma/planning.

What Types of Permits are Required to Work on Protected Trees?

Limited trimming of small limbs can be done without permits if specific standards are met. Trimming of large limbs or other alteration is usually approved with an over-the-counter tree permit which currently costs from \$100.

When are Mitigation Offsets Required?

When healthy trees are removed without permits, the responsible party will usually be required to pay for the loss or replace the tree(s) with other trees. Mitigation is also required when a development project removes trees. Mitigation offsets are based on the square inches of cross-sectional area of the tree trunk.

Where Do I Obtain a Tree Permit?

Tree permits are available from the Ventura County Planning Division in the Hall of Administration at the Ventura County Government Center, 800 South Victoria Avenue, Ventura. Requirements include a complete application and filing fee. Other objective data or documentation, such as photographs and arborist's reports, may also be required.

More Information About Protected Trees

There are numerous books on tree care to be found in libraries and bookstores. Nurseries that raise trees would also have information, as would arborists; both are listed in the phone book. The Planning Division has a brochure on the care of oak trees. Further information may be obtained from the Farm Advisor's Office (UC Coop Extension).

General Care and Maintenance of Oaks

Oaks are perhaps the most sensitive of the protected trees. Trenching and grading the ground beneath the tree canopy should always be avoided (and requires a permit if done).

Compacting the ground over the roots by driving over the area or storing heavy items in the area is also harmful to the root zone. Over-watering or allowing water to pond within ten feet of the tree trunk is damaging.

