
DeKalb County Homeowners Guide for Tree Removal

Written notification should be submitted to the DeKalb County Arborist, via fax at (404) 371-2685 or e-mail rwtonning@dekalbcountyga.gov **before** trees are removed from property:

- Dead, diseased or hazardous trees may be removed at any time.
- You may remove up to five (5) healthy trees on your property per calendar year, *provided that those trees are not specimen trees*. A specimen tree is defined as a tree with a life expectancy of 15 years or more, relative sound trunk with no extensive decay or hollow, less than 20% trunk dieback, no major insect or pathological problem and meets the following size guidelines:
 - For Overstory (large) trees, ex.: Oak, Poplar and Pine– diameter at breast height (4 ½ feet up from the ground) is greater than or equal to 30 inches (which equates to a circumference of **94.2 inches**)
 - For Understory (small) trees, ex: Dogwood - diameter at breast height (4 ½ feet up from the ground) is greater than or equal to 10 inches (which equates to a circumference of **31.4 inches**).

If the tree in question meets the criteria for a specimen tree it **cannot** be removed *until* it is assessed by a Certified Arborist. If you need to remove more than five (5) trees, you must have all trees assessed by a Certified Arborist and forward tree assessments **in writing** to the DeKalb County Arborist. You can find Arborists in the yellow pages or by going to the International Society of Arboriculture web site at www.isa-arbor.org.

If you have any further questions, feel free to call Planning and Sustainability, Environmental Compliance Division at 404-371-4913.
