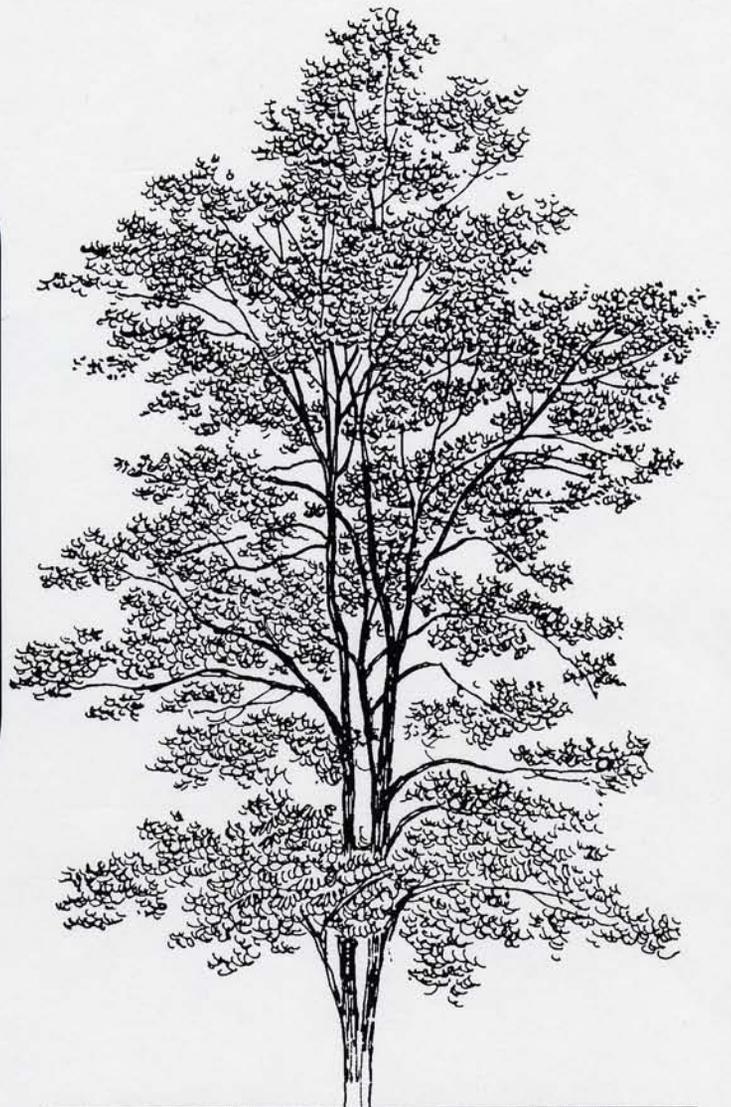


Miami-Dade County's

Tree Removal Permit Application Package

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Miami-Dade County
Department of Environmental Resources Management
33 SW 2 Avenue, Suite 400, Miami, Florida 33130-1540
Phone: (305) 372-6574 Fax: (305) 372-6479

Paquetes Para Aplicación de Permiso de Remuevo de Árboles son disponibles en español. Para más información llame al (305) 372-6574.

On the web at: www.co.miami-dade.fl.us/derm

This booklet is provided as a public service by the Miami-Dade County Department of Environmental Resources Management (DERM). Miami-Dade County provides equal access and equal opportunity in employment and services and does not discriminate on the basis of handicap.

General Information

Section 24-49 of the Miami-Dade County Code mandates the protection of Dade County's tree and forest resources. The following information should assist you in understanding Miami-Dade County tree and forest protection requirements. Please take the time to read this information carefully before filling out the attached application.

Where and when are tree removal permits required?

Tree removal permits are required for the cutting down, bulldozing, removal or relocation of any tree in Miami-Dade County, except for certain exemptions listed on Page 3. Permits are also required for any work in any designated Natural Forest Community (i.e. pinelands, hammocks). DERM may require the property owner to modify a site plan to preserve tree and forest resources.

Note: A tree is defined as any woody or fibrous perennial plant having a minimum trunk dbh* of three inches or greater or with an Over All Height (OAH) of twelve or more feet.

What about the trimming of trees?

Tree removal permits are not required for the selective pruning of trees, provided the pruning is done according to the most recent American National Standards (ANSI) A-300 Standard Practices for Tree Care Operations. However, excessive pruning (i.e. hatracking, topping, etc.) which results in the effective destruction of a tree constitutes a violation of Section 24-49 of the Environmental Code of Miami-Dade County. Any other activity that can effectively destroy a tree, such as trunk girdling, excessive root cutting, or use of tree-killing chemicals, also violates Miami-Dade County Code.

Who administers the Miami-Dade County tree and forest protection program?

Miami-Dade County Department of Environmental Resources Management (DERM), Forest Resources Section.

Who must apply for a tree removal permit?

The owner of the property upon which the tree removal work will occur must sign the tree removal permit. The owner may designate an agent to sign the permit by submitting a letter of authorization to DERM.

What types of tree and forest resources does the ordinance protect?

There are three categories of protected tree resources in Miami-Dade County: "Regular-size" trees (less than 18" dbh), "specimen-size" trees (18" or greater dbh), and Natural Forest Communities which includes grasses, shrubs, and trees.

Will I be required to replant trees for the ones that I remove?

All "regular-sized" trees you remove -- except for the exempt or prohibited species -- must be replaced with an equal amount (100%) of tree canopy. "Specimen-sized" trees require double canopy replacement. This is accomplished by planting trees from the categories below:

Canopy Credit Formulas		
Replacement Canopy Type	Min. Size At Planting	Canopy Credit (Sq ft)
Shade Tree 1	12' OAH*	500
Shade Tree 2	8' OAH	300
Palm 1	10' OAH	300
Palm 2	3' OAH	100
Small Tree	6' OAH	200

*OAH = Over All Height

You may be required to replant more than one type of tree.

What about stands of natural forest such as hardwood hammocks or pinelands?

If a site has been designated as a Natural Forest Community or if you think a site may be a Natural Forest Community, please contact the DERM Forest Resources Program at (305) 372-6585 for information.

What fees do I have to pay for a tree removal permit?

A non-refundable application fee (based on zoning) and initial inspection fee is required upon permit application submission. Additional fees may be charged at the time of permit issuance. See the fee schedule on Page 5.

What happens if I do not comply with the conditions and requirements of my tree removal permit or remove a tree or forest without a permit?

You will be issued a "Notice of Violation" and ordered to stop all land clearing and construction until you have complied with Section 24-49. Furthermore, you may be required to pay penalties for each violation and replace tree canopy.

How long will my tree removal permit be valid?

One year, but can be renewed by contacting DERM.

* DBH (Diameter at Breast Height): Trunk diameter measured at 4 1/2 feet above ground.

Special Permits and Requirements

Tree removal permit applications involving a building permit must include the following items:

1. A completed tree removal application form along with non-refundable application and initial inspection fees.
2. Two copies of a site plan. This site plan must show all proposed site improvements, including driveway, septic tank, pool, tennis court, utility lines, sewer lines, setbacks and any accessory buildings.
3. At the discretion of DERM, a tree survey may be required. Please see DERM *Tree Survey Guidelines and Specifications* for further information. Please be advised that DERM may require the property and area of proposed construction staked prior to inspection.
4. All permits require the full replacement of tree canopy. DERM approval of a tree replacement or landscaping plan may be required prior to the issuance of this tree removal permit. Please read the tree replacement requirement section for details.

Tree removal permit applications involving new road construction or any improvement in road right-of-ways must include the following items:

1. A completed tree removal application form along with non-refundable application and initial inspection fees.
2. Two copies of the paving and drainage plan with the locations of all trees to be affected. Please be advised that the center line and/or limits of construction must be staked prior to inspection and subsequent permit issuance.
3. All permits require the full replacement of tree canopy. DERM approval of a tree replacement plan or landscaping plan may be required prior to issuance of this tree removal permit.

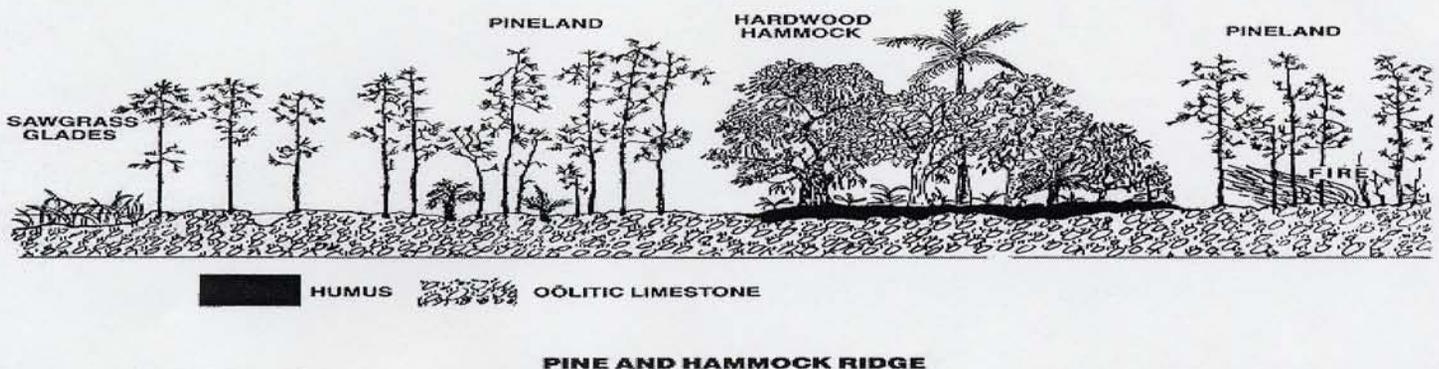
Tree removal applications for work in a Natural Forest Community must include the following items:

1. A completed tree removal application form. Upon receipt of an application to do work within a Natural Forest Community (NFC), DERM biologists will inspect the site to verify that it meets the definition of a NFC.
2. Two copies of a site plan. This site plan must show the proposed site improvements, setbacks, including driveway, septic tank, pool, tennis court, utility lines, sewer lines, and any accessory buildings.
3. Prior to the issuance of a permit to remove all or portion of a NFC for site development, a restrictive covenant may be executed to provide for the preservation and management of the remaining forest community. Blank shell forms of the covenant document form are available from DERM upon request.

Note: Contact a biologist at (305) 372-6585 to expedite this process or for information about these requirements.

Tree Replacement Requirements:

1. Tree canopy replacement will be required as a condition of every tree removal permit. Replacement Tree Plan forms are available upon request and may be used when the canopy impacted is less than 10,000 square feet. (See Canopy Credit Formulas on page 1).
2. When replacement tree canopy exceeds 10,000 square feet, a landscape plan must be submitted and approved by DERM prior to permit issuance. A performance bond is required for the cost of the canopy replacement. The bond must be submitted prior to permit issuance. The Department accepts letters of credit and certificates of deposits for the bond.



Exemptions

A tree permit is not required for the following activities:

- 1. Removal of trees within the yard area of an existing single-family residence**, provided the trees are not within a natural forest community, and are not specimen trees (18" or greater diameter) or mangrove trees (Class I Permit may be required, see #3 below). This exemption does not apply to trees that are growing on County right-of-ways (area between the sidewalk and the street) adjoining existing single-family residences.
- 2. Removal of any dead tree.**
- 3. Removal of any trees located upon coastal or freshwater wetlands**, as defined in Section 24.5. Please contact the DERM Natural Resources Division at (305)372-6585 for further details. Separate coastal and/or wetland construction permits are required for work -- including mangrove trimming -- in those areas.
- 4. Removal of trees within state-approved plant nurseries and botanical gardens**, provided these trees were planted and are growing for the display, breeding, propagation, sale or intended sale to the general public in the ordinary course of business.
- 5. Removal of any of the following species:** (Provided it is not within a natural forest community, in which case a permit shall be required, but all application and permit fees shall be waived by the Department):
 - *Melaleuca quinquenervia* (Cajeput or Paperback Tree)
 - *Casuarina spp.* (Australian Pine)
 - *Schinus terebinthifolius* (Brazilian pepper)
 - *Bischofia javanica* (Bischofia)
 - *Ricinus communis* (Castorbean)
 - *Psidium guajava* (Guavas)
 - *Albizia lebbbeck* (Woman's Tongue)
 - *Acacia auriculaeformis* (Earleaf Acacia)
 - *Schefflera actinophylla* (Queensland Umbrella Tree)
 - *Araucaria heterophylla* (Norfolk Island Pine)
 - *Metopium toxiferum* (Poison Wood)
 - *Adenantha pavonina* (Red Sandalwood)
 - *Cupaniopsis anacardiopsis* (Carrotwood)
 - *Dalbergia sissoo* (Indian dalbergia, sissoo)
 - *Ficus microcarpa* (=R. nitida; =F. retusa var. nitida)(Laural Fig)
 - *Flacourtia indica* (Governor's Plum)
 - *Hibiscus tiliaceus* (Mahoe)
 - *Leucaena leucocephala* (Lead tree)
 - *Mimosa pigra* (Catclaw Mimosa)
 - *Thespesia populnea* (Seaside Mahoe)

The Benefits of Trees

Trees fight pollution. A typical healthy tree can remove up to 48 pounds of carbon dioxide (CO₂) from the air every year. CO₂ is one of the leading causes of "The Greenhouse Effect." Tree roots can also help to filter groundwater and protect erosion.

Shade from trees helps to keep buildings, streets, and parking lots cool. Evidence indicates that well-positioned shade trees can cut a building's cooling costs by up to 50 %. Trees also help to cool the air in our cities through evapotranspiration.

Trees provide habitat for wildlife. Birds that nest in trees eat mosquitoes and other insects.

Trees can add up to 15 % to property values. They also make our neighborhoods and city streets more attractive to tourists and investors.

Miami-Dade County is not alone in its efforts to preserve its trees. Communities throughout the nation are recognizing the importance of urban forests and are passing laws to protect them.

You can help by reporting any illegal tree removal or excessive pruning to DERM (24-hour: (305) 372-6955), and by planting more trees whenever possible. For more information about landscaping with trees, or about tree planting programs in Miami-Dade County, contact the organizations below:

*Miami-Dade County
Cooperative Extension Service
18710 SW 288 Street
Homestead, FL 33031
Phone: (305) 248-3311*

*Miami-Dade County
Department of Planning and Zoning
111 NW 1 Street, Suite 1200
Miami, FL 33138
Phone: (305) 375-2845*

Prohibited Plant Species

Plants that are prohibited to be planted, sold or propagated in Miami-Dade County:

- *Acacia auriculiformis* (earleaf acacia)
- *Adenanthera pavonina* (red sandalwood)
- *Albizia lebbek* (woman's tongue)
- *Ardisia elliptica* (=A. humilis) (shoebutton ardisia)
- *Bischofia javanica* (bischofia)
- *Casuarina spp.* (Australian Pine)
- *Cestrum diurnum* (day jasmine)
- *Colubrina asiatica* (lather leaf)
- *Cupaniopsis anacardiopsis* (carrotwood)
- *Dalbergia sissoo* (Indian dalbergia, sissoo)
- *Ficus altissima* (banyan tree)
- *Ficus benghalensis*
- *Ficus elastica* (India rubber tree)
- *Ficus microcarpa* (=R. nitida; =F. retusa var. nitida) (laurel fig)
- *Flacourtia indica* (governor's plum)
- *Hibiscus tiliaceus* (mahoe)
- *Jasminum dichotomum* (Gold Coast jasmine)
- *Jasminum fluminense* (jasmine)
- *Leucaena leucocephala* (lead tree)
- *Melaleuca quinquenervia* (melaleuca)
- *Mimosa pigra* (catclaw mimosa)
- *Merremia tuberosa* (wood rose)
- *Neyraudia reynaudiana* (Burma reed; cane grass)
- *Schefflera actinophylla* (Queensland Umbrella Tree)
- *Schinus terebinthifolius* (=Brazilian pepper)
- *Solanum viarum* (tropical soda apple)
- *Thespesia populnea* (seaside mahoe)
- *Tribulus cistoides* (puncture vine)
- PROPOSED - *Pennisetum purpureum* (napier grass)
- *Lygodium spp.* (climbing fern)

Other Plants to Avoid When Landscaping Homes in Miami-Dade County

Many landscape plants are not a problem for our natural resources. However, a few are so invasive that they have completely overrun natural forests and crowded out rare and unique plants found nowhere else in the world. Each year, it costs the public thousands of dollars per acre to protect our natural areas from these exotic pest plants.

You can help by avoiding plants that are known to be invasive. The following list is reprinted from the 1998 Miami-Dade County Landscaping Manual. These species may not be planted within 500 feet of the native plant community they are known to invade.

Species (Common Name)

- *Bauhinia variegata* (orchid tree)
- *Bauhinia purpurea* (orchid tree)
- *Calophyllum calaba* (=C. inophyllum) (mast wood)
- *Catharanthus roseus* (Madagascar periwinkle)
- *Eugenia uniflora* (Surinam cherry)
- *Epipremnum pinnatum* cv. *aureum* (pothos)
- *Kalanchoe pinnata* (life plant)
- *Murraya paniculata* (orange jessamine)
- *Pittosporum tobira* (japanese pittosporum)
- *Pongamia pinnata* (=Derris indica) (Ponga; Karum Tree)
- *Pouteria campechiana* (canistel)
- *Psidium guajava* (guava)
- *Psidium littorale* (cattley guava)
- *Rhoeo spathacea* (oyster plant)
- *Sansevieria hyacinthoides* (=S. trifasciata) (bowstring Hemp)
- *Scaevola taccada* var. *sericea* (=S. frutescens; =s. sericea) (scaevola; halfflower)
- *Syngonium podophyllum* (arrowhead)
- *Syzygium cumini* (jambolan; Java plum)
- *Syzygium jambos* (rose apple)
- *Terminalia catappa* (tropical almond)
- *Washingtonia spp.* (Washington palm)
- *Wedelia trilobata* (wedelia)
- *Zebrina pendula* (wandering zebrina)

Native Plant Communities Invaded

- Hammocks
- Hammocks
- Hammocks
- Beaches, Sandy Pinelands and Hammocks
- Hammocks
- Hammocks, Pinelands
- Hammocks
- Hammocks
- Pinelands
- Pinelands
- Hammocks
- Freshwater wetlands
- Freshwater wetlands
- Pinelands, Hammocks
- Pinelands, Hammocks
- Beaches
- Hammocks, Pinelands
- Hammocks
- Hammocks
- Coastal & freshwater wetlands
- Coastal wetlands & beaches
- All communities
- All communities

Tree Removal Permit Fees

A. Applications Not Within Natural Forest Communities

<i>Zoning</i>	<i>Fee</i>
1. Residential	\$63 application fee plus \$12 per tree up to a maximum of \$320 per acre of canopy removed.
2. Multi-family	\$80 application fee plus \$12 per tree up to a maximum of \$395 per acre of canopy removed.
3. Business	\$105 application fee plus \$12 per tree up to a maximum of \$395 per acre of canopy removed.
4. Commercial	\$105 application fee plus \$12 per tree up to a maximum of \$660 per acre of canopy removed.
5. Agricultural	\$55 application fee plus \$6 per tree up to a maximum of \$265 per acre of canopy removed.

B. Rights-of-Way	\$28 application fee plus \$6 per tree up to a maximum of \$265 per acre of canopy removed.
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C. Applications Within Natural Forest Communities

<i>Zoning</i>	<i>Fee</i>
1. Residential	\$105 application fee plus \$65 per tenth acre of forest removed.
2. Multi-family	\$130 application fee plus \$95 per tenth acre of forest removed.
3. Business	\$130 application fee plus \$130 per tenth acre of forest removed.
4. Commercial	\$130 application fee plus \$160 per tenth acre of forest removed.
5. Agricultural	\$75 application fee plus \$63 per tenth acre of forest removed.
6. Rights-of-Way	\$85 application fee plus \$72 per tenth acre of forest removed.

D. Exotic Species Variance Request	\$265
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E. Initial Assessment (Environmental Assessment) for Determination of Tree Preservation Requirements

1. For properties not within Natural Forest Communities:	
a. Single family	\$140
b. Multi-family, commercial, agricultural or business	\$690
2. For properties within Natural Forest Communities:	
a. Single family property	
property size: 10 acres or less	\$320
property size: more than 10 acres	\$395
b. Multi-family, commercial or agricultural	
property size: 10 acres or less	\$725
property size: more than 10 acres	\$920

F. Preparation of Covenants

1. Tree preservation requirements	\$140
2. Grove exemption	\$140

G. Management Plan Preparation

1. 5 acres or less	\$195
2. More than 5 acres	\$260

H. Miscellaneous Reviews and Inspections*

1. Need for compliance inspection (Initial Inspection)	
a. less than 20 trees	\$35
b. 20-100 trees	\$65
c. 100-200 trees	\$135
d. 200 or more trees	\$265
2. Barrier inspection	\$35
3. Natural Forest Community preservation area boundary determination	
a. up to 10 acres	\$320
b. more than 10 acres	\$400
4. Utility easement siting inspection	\$75
5. Roadway and drainage siting inspection	\$75
6. Miscellaneous, field inspection for tree preservation	
Replacement landscape plan review	
Replacement landscape field inspection (Final Inspection)	
a. less than 20 trees	\$35
b. 20-100 trees	\$65
c. 100-200 trees	\$130
d. 200 or more trees	\$265
7. Review for specimen-sized tree removal	
a. Single family	\$140
b. Multi-family / commercial / business	\$690
8. Permit extension fee is equivalent to original application fee.	

* Additional fees will be required for all reinspections.
 Concurrent inspections shall be discounted 20% of the total individual fees.
 In addition, the Certificate of Occupancy will be held and will be released when balance of inspection fees have been paid in full.



Tree Removal Permit Application

Owner and Contractor Information

Owner Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____ Fax/Email: _____

Contact/Agent Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Contact Number: _____ Fax/Email: _____

When the permit is ready, would you like it to be: mailed or will you pick it up in person?

Site Location and Description

Address: _____

Property Folio: _____ - _____ - _____ - _____ TWP/RG/SEC: _____

Current Zoning: _____ Subdivision: _____

Does intended use of property require rezoning or plat approval? Yes No

Work Description

Building Permit Process Number: _____

Number and type of trees to be removed or relocated: _____

Reason for relocation or removal: _____

Total number of trees on site: _____

(A TREE SURVEY IS REQUIRED FOR APPLICATIONS WITH MORE THAN TEN TREES)

Application attachments include: _____

Signature of certification that all above information is correct: _____

Print name: _____
Print Name

OFFICIAL USE ONLY	
Received by: _____	Date Received: _____
Fees Included: _____	Payment Type: _____

Return this application form to DERM, Tree Program, Enforcement Section
33 SW 2 Avenue, Suite 400, Miami, Florida 33130
For more information call 305-372-6574