

Residential Tree Removal

Tree Removal Permit Requirements:

- Tree Removal Permit Application
- Sketch or site plan of the property, showing:
 - Property lines
 - Lot size (acres or sq. feet)
 - Location of house and any other structures
 - Location, species, and diameter of all existing trees. See below for measurement instructions.
 - Trees to be removed marked with an X.

See next page for additional site plan information.
- Photos of trees to be removed
- For specimen trees being removed, provide a statement from a registered Landscape Architect or Certified Arborist
- Business License and Certificate of Liability Insurance of contractor, or a Homeowner Declaration Form if removing tree as homeowner
- Permit fee (see fee schedule)

What are Chamblee's tree requirements?

Chamblee has tree preservation regulations that affect all properties within the City. Residential properties are required to have trees with a combined diameter of at least 50 total inches per acre, and commercial properties must have at least 100 total inches in diameter per acre.

How do I measure tree diameter?

A tree's diameter is distance across the tree through its center. This should be measured as *diameter at breast height*, or *DBH*. Use a tape measure or string to measure the number of inches around the tree 4.5 feet from the ground. Use a calculator to divide this number by 3.14 to find the DBH. See the next page for more information on measuring DBH.

When do I need a tree removal permit?

On already-developed single-family residential properties, a homeowner can remove up to five *non-specimen* trees per calendar year without a permit. However, if a homeowner wants to remove more trees or a *specimen tree* (including a specimen tree that is considered a *hazardous tree*), a permit is needed. Tree removal on multi-family residential property also requires a permit.

What is a *specimen tree*?

Specimen trees are those large enough to require extra protection. The minimum size needed to be a specimen tree depends on tree type:

- Hardwood: 24" DBH or larger. (Examples: oak, poplar, sweetgum)
- Softwood: 30" DBH or larger. (Examples: pine, cedar, cryptomeria)
- Understory: 4" DBH or larger. (Examples: dogwood, redbud, sourwood)

What is a *hazardous tree*?

A tree "that poses a potential risk of damage or injury to a person or property due to the presence of some structural defect (such as decay)" is considered *hazardous*. While the City recognizes that hazardous trees can cause concern, a permit is needed to remove hazardous specimen trees. Contact the Development Department if you want to remove a tree that may be considered hazardous.

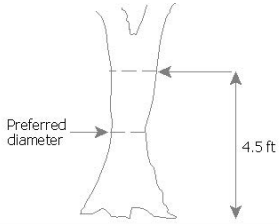
Permitting Process

Submit an application and the required documents to the Development Department via e-mail to ChambleeDevelopment@chambleega.gov, or in person at the Development Department office.

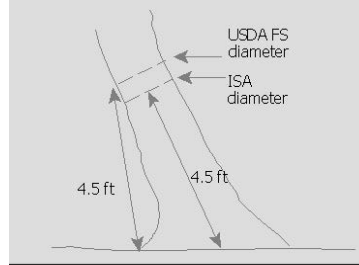
Permits are issued by the Development Department between 8:30 am and 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday. The typical review time for a tree removal permit application is one to three business days. Please contact us if you have any questions.

How to measure diameter at breast height (DBH)

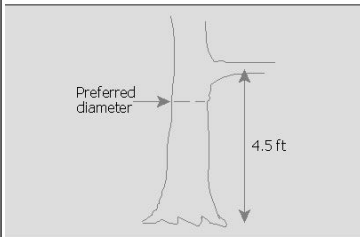
Breast height is 4.5 feet from the ground. A tree's diameter is its circumference (number of inches measured around the outside of the tree) divided by 3.14.



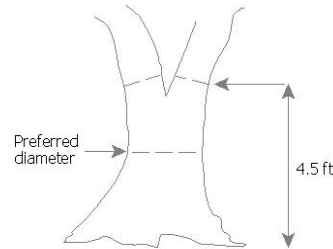
If the tree is tapered in a way where the diameter is smaller below the 4.5 ft mark, measure from the smallest point.



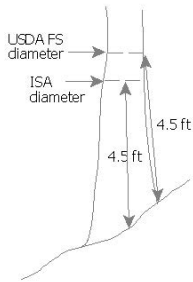
If the tree is leaning, measure 4.5 ft up the stem in the direction of the lean, or measure from the midpoint of the lean.



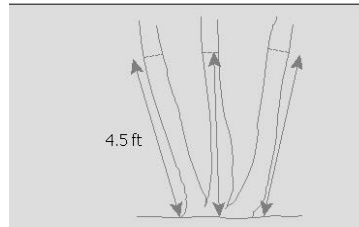
If the tree has branches or bumps that interfere with measurement at the 4.5 ft mark, measure from below the branch or bump.



If the tree forks below or near 4.5 ft, measure at the narrowest part of the main stem below the fork.



If the tree is growing on a slope, measure either 4.5 ft from the middle of the tree or measure from the top of the slope.



If the tree is split into several trunks, measure each trunk at 4.5 ft. The DBH is calculated as the square root of the sum of all trunk measurements.

Example tree removal site plan: Use a survey, plat, aerial photo with property lines, or sketch

Removing 1 specimen tree - Oak 28dbh
Retaining required 50dbh on property
Approximately 0.5 acres

