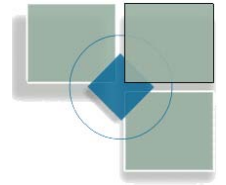




## DeKalb County Planning & Development Department

Burrell Ellis  
Chief Executive Officer



# Dekalb County Homeowner Guide for Tree Removal

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Written notification should be submitted to the Dekalb County Arborist, via fax at (404)678-3949 or e-mail [planninganddevelopment@dekalbcountyga.gov](mailto:planninganddevelopment@dekalbcountyga.gov) Attention to the County Arborist **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 & 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](http://www.isa-arbor.org).

If you have any further questions, feel free to call Planning and Development, Environmental Compliance Division at 404-371-2685