

## Frequently Asked Questions

Q. Do I need a permit to remove a tree on my private property?

A. No. Tree removal permits are typically not required in Mountlake Terrace. However, trees located in a Native Growth Protection Area (NGPA), or “green belt” require prior city approval. Check at City Hall to confirm.

Q. Do I need a permit to remove a tree in the right-of-way adjacent to my property?

A. No. However you should always contact the City. Sometimes the Public Works Department arranges for removal of certain trees in the right of way that have become hazards or obstacles.

Q. Do I need a permit to plant in the right-of-way adjacent to my property?

A. No. However prohibited trees and any trees or plants with invasive roots are not allowed on, or within, 10 feet of the public right-of-way.

Q. Do I need a permit to plant a tree on my private property?

A. No. The Recommended Tree List can assist you to select an appropriate tree and to avoid a prohibited tree.

Q. Who is responsible for your tree?

A. The owner of the property where the tree is located is responsible for the tree and any impact it has. This applies to the impact your tree may have on utilities, public right of way, and possibly, your neighbor’s property.

## Additional Resources

Recommended Residential Tree List  
City Hall, Office of Community & Economic Development  
425.774.6266

<http://www.cityofmlt.com>

Arbor Day Foundation  
Comprehensive resource for choosing a tree, tree planting and care, and general tree information.  
<http://www.arboday.org>

Mountlake Terrace Library  
23300 58th Avenue W, Mountlake Terrace, WA 98043

Piper’s Creek Nursery  
Bothell nursery specializing in urban use of native plants.  
<http://www.piperscreeknursery.com>

Plant Amnesty  
Useful for information on plant maintenance and pruning.  
<http://www.plantamnesty.org>

Snohomish County Master Gardener Foundation  
Local group that provides guidance for plant purchasing and hosts informative gardening events.  
<http://snomgf.org/default.aspx>

Swanson’s Nursery  
Large Seattle-based nursery with wide selection of native and exotic plants.  
<http://www.swansonnursery.com>

University of Washington Center for Urban Horticulture  
Great resource for a more in depth study into urban horticulture and urban forestry practices.  
<http://depts.washington.edu/uwbg/visit/cuh.php>

City of Mountlake Terrace

# Tree Planting Pamphlet



# How to Plant

## Step 1: Before you plant

- Make sure the soil around your tree's roots is moist.
- Take your tree out of the container or burlap sack. Be as gentle as possible with the roots and keep the soil ball intact.
- If you have a bare root tree, make sure the hole is wide enough so the roots are able to spread out

## Step 2: Putting your tree in the ground

- Make sure the hole you dig is 2 to 5 times wider than the width of the bare roots or root ball.
- The hole should be at least 4 feet wide, although 6 feet is preferred.
- Sloping the sides of your hole will support root growth

## Step 3: Fill in your hole

- Do not fill the soil up past the flare of the tree

## Step 4: Mulch your newly planted tree

- Cover the area around the base of your tree with wood chips or bark.
- Keep the mulch 4 to 6 inches from the tree trunk.
- Mulch should be no more than 3 to 4 inches thick.
- Mulch should cover a diameter of at least 3 feet away from the base of the tree

## Step 5: Water your tree

- Give your tree a deep watering to help the tree settle

# Where to Plant

## Tree Location Considerations:

Deciduous trees planted to the south and west of a building help keep it cool in summer. In the winter, the now leafless trees allow for sunlight to warm the building.

Evergreen trees along the north side of a building can slow cold winter weather winds, and reduce heat loss.

Keep fruit bearing trees away from the street, sidewalk or driveways to avoid fruit falling where people drive or walk.

## Important Tree Setback Distances:

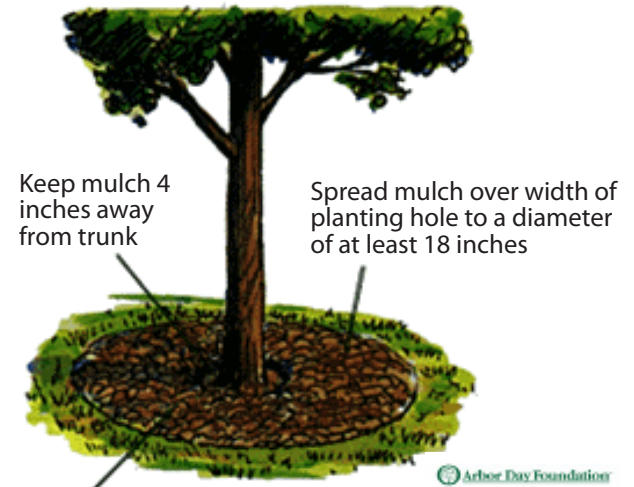
Face of the Curb	3.5 ft.	Underground Utility Ducts	5 ft.
Driveway edge	7.5 ft.	Utility Poles	10 ft.
Fire Hydrants	5 ft.	Buildings, Walls, and Fences	10 ft.
Roadway edge	10 ft.	Sidewalk	2 ft. minimum 8 ft. preferred
Street light poles	20 ft.	Overhead wires	25 ft.

**Call 811 before you dig!**

Utilities are marked for free! Just call a few days in advance of your planting project to request the location of underground utilities.

Land line: 1.800.424.5555

# Tree Care



## How to Mulch Properly:

Mulch an area at least 18 inches wide around the entire tree and keep it weed free throughout the life of the tree.

## Watering:

Your newly planted tree will need immediate watering. The roots will be concentrated around the root ball, so focus on watering that area. Once your tree is established, which may take 1-2 years you can water less frequently. Focus the water around the outer edge of the tree canopy where the roots extend to.

## Before You Prune:

Consult local resources for small pruning tasks. Removal of large trees should be done by a licensed professional. Contact the city about permit requirements. Some corrective pruning may be necessary, which is removal of dead and broken branches.