



Which trees get trimmed?

Any tree with limbs that grow through or around power lines will be marked for pruning. We also remove branches growing above lines where snow or ice could cause limbs to sag or fall into live lines. The distance a tree is trimmed depends on the type of tree and the power line voltage.

In extreme cases, we may even remove an entire tree that, because of where it's planted or how it grows, could endanger lives. This includes trees that are weak, diseased, drying or severely damaged, as well as trees that would have to be trimmed so much that they would not survive or would be very unsightly.

How the tree trimming project works.

When we visit your neighborhood, we will evaluate the safety and security of the lines, and identify those trees that need to be trimmed. As a courtesy, we notify and advise the individual property owners who will be affected. If a property owner isn't home, we will leave a notification card on the doorknob. That card will include a local phone number the resident can call to ask any questions he or she may have.

Your local REMC covers the entire cost of the tree trimming service. When we trim a tree, we clean up the area and haul away the brush.

However, when a storm knocks trees into our power lines, we do not clean up or remove any of the debris left behind.

Should a tree on your property cause an outage, or pose an imminent safety hazard, the necessary work will be done immediately without notification.

How you can help.

Smart planting saves the need for pruning. Trees planted along your property's border should be low-growing shrubs or tall, narrow trees planted at least 30 feet from power lines. Spreading trees, including maples and oaks, are the most common outage-causing culprits and need to be planted at least 50 feet way from the lines.

Use these tips to plant safe and plant smart:

- Before you dig, call to make sure there are no buried power lines.
- Deciduous (leaf dropping) trees should be planted on the south and west sides of your home to cool in the summer and allow sun to enter the house in the winter.
- Evergreen trees should be planted on the north side of your house where they will serve

as a windbreak against cold northern winds.

- Any tree planted less than 30 feet from a power line should have a height of 20 to 30 feet or less when fully grown.

