

Tree Removal in Pitkin County



Contact a Pitkin County Planner at 970-920-5526 for more information.

Pitkin County Community Development

Tree Removal Requirements:

All removals of live trees require County review and approval, and in most cases, shall only take place within an approved Activity Envelope.

Each tree with a six (6) inch or larger 'Diameter at Breast Height' (D.B.H.) removed within an Activity Envelope shall be replaced with one (1) or more trees having a total D.B.H. equal to at least the caliper(s) of the tree(s) removed. See §7-20-10 of the County Land Use Code for details.

Clearing or grubbing of land, or removal of vegetation and in some instances individual tree removal requires an earth moving permit and revegetation plan/tree mitigation plan and shall take place only within an approved Activity Envelope. Refer to the Earthmoving Informational Sheet or the Asset Management Plan for additional information.



What do I need to do before removing a tree or trees?

Contact a Planner with the following:

- ▲ Site Plan showing existing development and vegetation/trees to be removed.
- ▲ Parcel I.D. Number and previous land use approvals (if applicable).
- ▲ Reason for removal of tree or trees.
- ▲ Number, type and size of trees to be removed.
- ▲ Plan for tree replacement and/or revegetation of the site (when required).
- ▲ Photographs are always helpful!

Mountain Pine Beetle



The selective removal or trimming of dead, diseased or damaged trees or other woody vegetation that constitutes a significant and direct hazard to persons or property, is allowed pursuant to Sections 4-30-20 and 7-20-10 of the Land Use Code based on certain thresholds and criteria. Written confirmation from a Certified Arborist or recognized tree/forestry expert may be required.

● Contact a Planner for more information/approval. ●

Things to remember:

- ▲ Clear cutting or other large scale removal of trees/vegetation, particularly within avalanche path starting zones, shall be prohibited without special review.
- ▲ All wildfire mitigation must be approved by the Pitkin County Community Development Department prior to tree removal, even when recommended by a wildfire expert or State Forester.
- ▲ Special areas have special rules (ask your Planner):
 - Redstone Historic Preservation District.
 - Scenic View Planes.
 - Slopes greater than 15%.
 - Critical habitats including *wetlands/riparian* or *wildlife areas*.

Information subject to change without notice. Reference the Pitkin County Land Use Code for all legal matters and information regarding specific

Additional Info:

- ▲ You may be required to post financial security for replacement/revegetation if your project has a potential to impact watershed areas, has a potential for visual impacts, has a slope greater than 15%, disturbs critical vegetation and/or disturbs large areas.
- ▲ Revegetation and reforestation shall be completed during the first planting season after disruption and shall utilize native horticultural material. Replaced vegetation shall reach similar density and height to that removed within two (2) years following construction.
- ▲ Modification to approved Landscape Plans requires a formal amendment.



Resource Links:

- Land Use Code, <http://www.aspenpitkin.com/depts/71/>
- Pine Beetle Information, <http://www.aspenpitkin.com/depts/64/>
- Re-vegetation Guide, <http://www.aspenpitkin.com/depts/64/deptmain.cfm>

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DISCLAIMER:

The information in this handout is from Chapter 7 of the 2006 Pitkin County Land Use Code. This handout is intended to provide a general overview of its subject matter. In all cases the Land Use Code should be consulted for more information on the topics subscribed herein.