



Tree Removal Permit Guidelines for

Private Property

City of Southport, NC

Planning & Inspections

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Trees are part of what makes Southport a desirable and beautiful place to live and work. They not only buffer the effects of traffic and development, they also fulfill essential ecological functions, such as improving air quality, reducing soil erosion, and moderating temperature extremes. To help manage and maintain these important benefits, the City of Southport has established certain requirements for removing trees.

When is a Tree Removal Permit required?

In certain situations, City Ordinances require a Tree Removal Permit. Whether a permit is required depends on the location and size of trees to be removed, and the site where the trees are located. Tree Removal Permit requirements for private property apply only to "Regulated Trees" (hard wood trees greater than 8" and conifers greater than 12") located in the front setback of any yard, as well as a tree determined to be a "Specimen" tree (any tree of any species that is greater than 30" DBH) located anywhere on the property.

Tree removal regulations are contained in the City of Southport UDO, Article 27 "Tree Preservation". The attached chart below summarizes current UDO requirements for tree removal on private property within City limits.

Use	Proposed Tree Removal	Tree Permit Required?
<p>Residential: Existing home, no building permit requested.</p>	<p>Removal of a Hardwood > 8" DBH in Front yard setback;</p> <p>Removal of a Conifer > 12" DBH in Front yard setback;</p> <p>Removal of Specimen tree (>30" DBH) in any location on property;</p> <p>Removal of any tree not meeting criteria above.</p>	<p>YES</p> <p>YES</p> <p>YES</p> <p>NO</p>
<p>Residential: Existing home or no home, building permit requested</p>	<p>If any trees are to be removed as part of building or remodeling process, a tree permit along with a landscape plan outlining trees to be removed, and trees to be retained, shall be submitted as part of the permitting process</p>	<p>YES</p>
<p>Commercial, Industrial, or Residential Subdivision</p>	<p>A comprehensive landscape plan, noting trees to be retained and those to be removed will be submitted as part of the permitting process IAW current development requirements and criteria.</p>	<p>See Section 27-22 of the UDO for submission guidelines.</p>