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Tree Trimming

Call us at 1-866-366-4357 if you have a tree issue.

ONE FALLEN TREE CAN CUT POWER TO AN ENTIRE NEIGHBORHOOD.

We work hard to keep our power lines and poles clear and in good condition. We must manage the trees and vegetation growing adjacent and under our lines. This involves pruning those trees and managing the vegetation under our lines on a maintenance schedule.

Learn more about this process in the sections below.

One Fallen Tree

Who removes debris? >

Dominion Energy removes pruning debris and brush associated with our maintenance tree trimming and line clearing in residential areas. When we cut diseased, dead, dying, or leaning trees or limbs near power lines, we will occasionally remove smaller limbs or debris. The larger limbs and trunks remain at the property of the landowner.

During outage events, such as storms, we are focused on restoring power quickly and safely. Tree debris that is a result of storms remains the responsibility of the property owner, therefore we do not remove this debris.

When a request for assistance with trees that are close to our lines, we remove or prepare a tree for removal in accordance to the High Voltage Safety Act, the debris remains the responsibility of the individual requesting the removal.

Is it safe for me to trim my own trees? >

When in doubt, give us a call. For your safety, never attempt to trim any plants or trees that are touching or growing near power lines. Call us at **1-866-366-4357**.

- View our [Tree Trimming Brochure](#)

Work near power lines. If you or a contractor are doing work at your home and need to get near lines, the High Voltage Safety Act requires you to contact Dominion Energy. In the state of Virginia, non-certified workers must maintain a minimum distance of 10 feet from power lines. In North Carolina, manual work may be done at least 6 feet from power lines; work with mechanical equipment (chainsaws, cranes, trucks, etc.) must be done at least 10 feet from power lines.

Trees on lines. If a tree or limb is touching a power line, call us so we can evaluate whether it should be removed. If a limb has fallen onto a line, call us to remove it. For safety, do not attempt to remove any trees or tree limbs from power lines yourself. For more information, you are invited to view this short video, [What can a 7,200-volt power line do?](#)

IMPORTANT SAFETY NOTE: Always assume downed lines and any nearby objects are energized and dangerous. If you see fallen lines on your property or in roadways, stay away and contact Dominion Energy immediately at **1-866-366-4357**.

What and where can I plant near power lines? >

- View Guidelines for Planting Near Power Lines - [Low Res \(12 MB\)](#) or [Hi-Res \(68 MB\)](#)
- View information on [safe planting distances](#) and [approved tree and shrub species](#).

- View a list of [suggested species](#) to consider when planning the landscape.
- Always remember to [call 811 before you dig](#).

Did You Know?

Dominion Energy has been recognized by the National Arbor Day Foundation as a [Tree Line USA utility](#).

FAQs: Why and When We Trim

Why do you trim my trees

Why do you trim my trees? >

Maintaining a clear area around power lines is an important part of reducing the risk of power outages and serious accidents. Our preventative maintenance program, called vegetation management, regularly clears limbs and brush from around power lines.

How often do you trim? >

Nearly all of our neighborhood power lines are cleared on a three or four year cycle totaling about 35,000 miles in Virginia and North Carolina. Unusual circumstances, such as storms or excessive growth, may require additional clearing.

How will I know when line-clearing crews will be in my area? >

We will notify you by letter or a message on your bill approximately 30 days before the line clearing begins. When our contract crews enter your property, they will provide a courtesy knock on your door and then proceed with their work.

Why should I allow line-clearing professionals on my property? >

Line clearing is necessary to ensure you and your neighbors have a safe, reliable and economic source of electricity. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

FAQs: How We Trim

How We Trim

How do you decide how much to trim? >

The amount of trimming varies by tree and location. Trained line-clearing professionals will consider growth rate and the tree's relative location to power lines and equipment before pruning. We use directional pruning in an effort to guide tree growth away from power lines. Our maintenance trimming is done on cycles typically ranging from 3 to 4 years, so we trim to account for anticipated growth.

Why did you cut so much from my tree? >

Several factors can affect how a tree should be pruned; power line voltage, tree species, and tree location must all be considered. Please call us if you have questions about tree trimming at a specific site: 1-866-366-4357.

How do you handle dead trees on my property? >

Dead trees present a significant threat to our power lines. That's why it's necessary to remove the portion of the tree that may hit the line. Sometimes this may mean taking the tree down. Any debris resulting from the partial or full take down of a dead tree is the property owner's responsibility.

Why don't you clean up limbs after storms? >

Our chief concern following large storm events is to restore everyone's power as quickly and safely as possible. Trees and limbs that must be cut or that fall during a storm remain the property of the tree owner.

Should I prune my trees or will Dominion Energy >

You should never attempt to trim any vegetation touching or inside the minimum safe distance to power lines as prescribed in the Virginia or North Carolina High Voltage Safety Acts.

If you or a contractor are doing work at your home and need to get near power lines, you must call Dominion Energy to help determine a safe way to remove trees or limbs: 1-866-366-4357.

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