

Love the Trees on Your Construction Site!



Love and protect the trees on your construction site whether you're building a house for yourself or for sale.

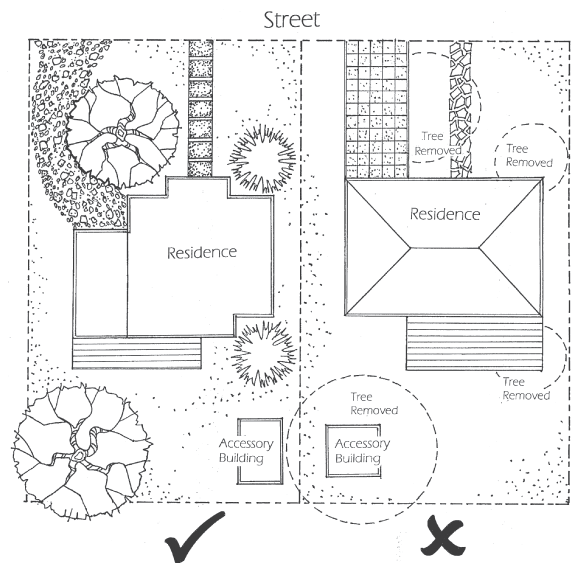
Mature trees add value to your property and to your neighbourhood. When you're planning your project, try to save trees wherever possible.

Small changes in the design and location of new buildings can often reduce the number of trees that need to be removed.

For some types of new construction, you will be required to apply for a Development Permit, Development Variance Permit or Building Permit, as well as a Tree Cutting or Removal Permit. The terms of the particular permit may require that replacement trees be planted, that you provide cash for tree planting in another location, or that you retain and protect trees during construction.



For more information on how to protect trees during construction and development, and on **Tree Cutting or Removal Permits**, contact the Esquimalt Parks Supervisor at 412.8526.

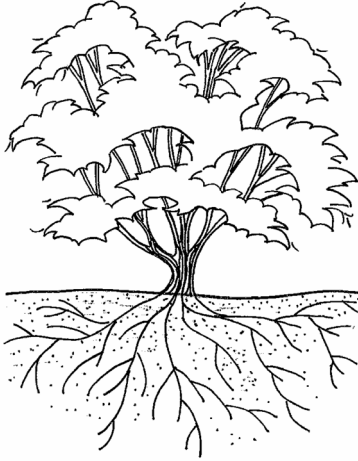


Love the Trees on Your Construction Site

In order to minimise the impact of construction on trees and help protect Esquimalt's natural heritage and urban forest, it's important to understand trees and their basic needs.

Trees 101

- ❖ An average tree has a horizontal root spread much wider than its branch spread
- ❖ Most nutrient absorbing roots reach beyond the branch spread
- ❖ Most tree roots are in the top metre (40 inches) of soil
- ❖ Most of the fine, absorbing roots are in the top 15 centimetres (6 inches) of soil.



How Construction Impacts Trees

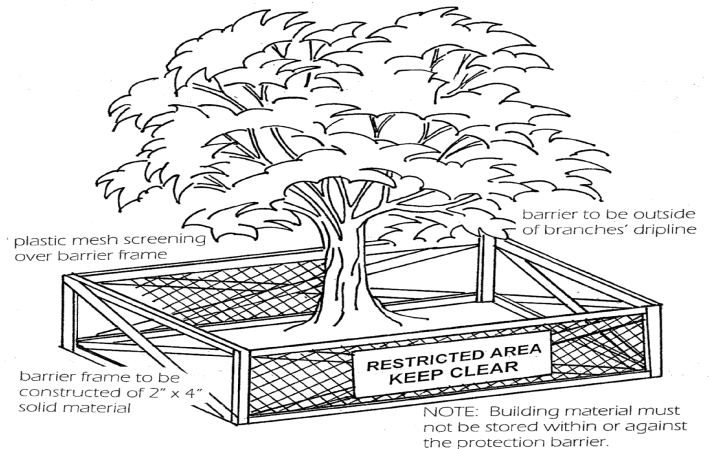
- ❖ Vehicles and equipment working on or near tree roots compact soil and reduce air pockets essential for tree health
- ❖ Spills of toxins (fuel, solvents, paints) pollute the soil
- ❖ Fumes from blasting are toxic to tree roots
- ❖ Excavation equipment causes damage to tree trunks, roots and root crowns
- ❖ Grade changes and trenching bury and suffocate roots or remove roots entirely
- ❖ Changes in the water table and surface drainage starve trees of nutrients and water.

What You Can Do to Protect the Trees on Your Construction Site

Develop a Tree Protection Plan that includes:

1. An inventory of all the trees on your site, indicating which ones you will retain and which ones you propose to remove
2. Storage of all excavation and building material away from retained trees
3. An access route to the site that avoids impact on the root zones of adjacent trees
4. A location for concrete washout areas that is away from retained trees (preferably down slope) and proposed and existing garden areas
5. An indication of how retained trees will be protected during construction *
6. A Tree Cutting or Removal Permit for those trees that have been approved for removal (*Esquimalt Bylaw 2047*).

Tree Protection Barrier



* Tree Protection Barrier

A snow fence and other substantial material at least 1.5 metres (60 inches) high is placed around the tree at or beyond the drip line. If your construction vehicles and heavy equipment cross a municipal boulevard, you must also protect the trees there. These trees must be watered sufficiently throughout construction and development, and pruned if required.