



What should it cost to have a tree removed?

Tree removal costs can vary widely depending upon a number of factors, many of which may be beyond control. There could be any number of scenarios requiring you to contract with a tree removal service, from storm damage to home remodeling. Requiring immediate service may drive up the cost, perhaps unnecessarily, if there are no structures involved or damage is minimal.

Here are a few things to keep in mind in all situations requiring contracted tree removal:

- Verify the tree service is bonded, insured and has workman's comp insurance. Insurance certificates should be emailed or mailed to the home and never handled by the tree service.
- Make sure there is a contract and that it addresses who is responsible for any additional damage caused by the tree removal company, including damage to structures, fences, and driveways.
- Never pay any money up front or half way through. Pay only after you are satisfied that all provisions of the contract (removal and cleanup) have been fulfilled.
- Contact your insurance carrier before any work is done. It may have contractors you are required to use. Take pictures of the damage and the finished product. Also, take pictures of anything you feel does not meet contract specifications.

The cost of removal

If the removal is a result of widespread storm damage or a catastrophic event, the cost of removal may go up as the demand for the tree services increases. If the removal need is not immediate and can be put off for a couple of weeks or even a month, the cost could come down significantly. Factors that increase the cost of removal are:

- Trees in difficult places or that have poor access areas for log moving equipment, such as bobcats or pickup trucks, which require more manual labor
- Very large hardwoods that require a crane to remove upper sections or major branches and that remove trees from the tops of houses or other structures
- The need to have all the work "done yesterday." Many companies may move you up the client list, but it comes at a price – sometimes a high price.

The removal of large hardwoods can cost upwards of \$5,000 dollars; very large trees can run in the tens of thousands of dollars. Pine tree removal costs can range from \$350 up to \$3,500, depending on their size and accessibility. Dead trees are more dangerous to remove and therefore more expensive. Removal costs of multiple trees may be reduced incrementally for each additional tree removed, since the tree service is already onsite. Leaving main trunks with little associated risk and leaving cut wood on the property can save money.

Keep in mind that it generally costs more to remove trees that have already suffered some form of wind or lightning damage. You may also find that your zip code has an effect on the price you pay for tree removal.