



**TREE PERMIT:  
FOR TRIMMING , REMOVING OR  
PLANTING TREES WITHIN THE  
COUNTY RIGHT-OF-WAY**



**COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS**

[www.sdcounty.ca.gov/dpw](http://www.sdcounty.ca.gov/dpw)

**Applications should be submitted to:**

County of San Diego  
Planning and Development Services (PDS)  
Land Development Counter  
5510 Overland Avenue, Suite 110  
San Diego, CA 92123

(858) 694-2055  
Fax (858) 279-7020

Email:

[ROWPERMITCOUNTER@SDCOUNTY.CA.GOV](mailto:ROWPERMITCOUNTER@SDCOUNTY.CA.GOV)

**FOR GENERAL INFORMATION ONLY  
NOT TO SUPERSEDE THE APPROPRIATE  
ORDINANCE**

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**

Section 4216/4217 of the Government Code requires a DigAlert Identification Number (ID) be issued before a "Permit to excavate" will be valid.

For your DigAlert ID Number  
Call Underground Service Alert  
TOLL FREE 811  
Two working days before you dig.

For more information, go to:  
[www.digalert.org](http://www.digalert.org)

## TREE PERMIT

### PERMIT REQUIRED

Before trimming, removing or planting trees or shrubs in the County Right-of-Way, the applicant must first obtain a permit for such work for health and safety purposes.

Under the provisions of a tree permit, the homeowner assumes responsibility for all damages which may result from the removal, trimming or planting of trees and/or shrubs

### APPLICATION PROCEDURE

The applicant shall provide the following:

- ◆ Sketch showing the location of trees or shrubs
- ◆ Type of trees or shrubs
- ◆ Plant, trim, or remove
- ◆ Justification for application
- ◆ May require Encroachment and/or Traffic Control permits
- ◆ An Encroachment Removal Agreement may be required and a deposit

### NO FEES

There is no fee for a Tree Permit. It takes approximately two weeks to process tree permits because a field review is required.

## PLANTING

All planting must be approved by the County for health and safety purposes. Refer to the Water Efficient Landscape Design Manual (<https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/dam/sdc/pds/advance/LandscapeOrdinance/Water-Efficient-Landscape-Design-Manual-2020.pdf>) for approved drought tolerant trees and shrubs for the different County areas (Coastal, Inland Valley, etc.). Also, Community Design Guidelines for various County unincorporated areas which identify specific species of plants and their use within these communities are available through the Zoning Counter or at:

<https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/pds/CommunityGroups/>

The applicant is responsible for maintaining the trees or shrubs, including any necessary watering, pruning and trimming.

Applicant must trim or remove any plantings immediately upon request by the Department of Public Works when necessary for improvement grading, preservation of the roadway or sidewalk area, improvement of safety conditions or if otherwise deemed advisable for the public's interest.

## TRIMMING

For non-routine work, the Department of Public Works may require all work to be done by or under the supervision of a tree surgeon.

All work must conform to County regulations on tree and shrub trimming which are specified on the tree permit application form.

## SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

- ◆ Public notification may be required prior to commencement of construction

