

## What is the Purpose Of The Tree Trimming Law?

To reduce the frequency of poor pruning practices, such as over lifting, rounding, flush cuts, stub cuts and hat racking. These practices can damage trees, reduce their aesthetic value and make them more prone to storm-related failure, creating hazardous situations.

## What is Considered "Tree Trimming?"

The ordinance describes tree trimming as:

- Removing branches more than one inch in diameter from a tree
- Removing live palm fronds from any type of palm tree with six feet or more of clear trunk
- Cutting down, digging up, destroying, removing or relocating any tree

Exceptions are made for, among other things:

- Nuisance trees as defined in Chapter 27, Section 27-404 of the Broward County Code of Ordinances
- Any tree as part of land development clearing activities which otherwise comply with the Code

## Whom Does the Ordinance Affect?

An individual or business that advertises, offers or performs tree trimming in Broward County; or a government agency that trims trees must have at each job site at least one person who has a Tree Trimmer License in his/her possession and who is directly supervising any unlicensed employees. The name, phone number and license number of the individual (if a sole proprietor) or the business must be prominently displayed on the vehicle being used for the business.

## What Types of Licenses are Issued?

**Class A Tree Trimmer License** is issued only to an individual who is a current and active Certified Arborist with the International Society of Arboriculture or is a Registered Consulting Arborist with the American Society of Consulting Arborists. The applicant must provide a notarized affidavit stating the business has the required number of employees, including subcontractors (one per job site), who have completed the training course(s) offered by Broward County Extension Education or another acceptable course and have passed the examination.

**Class B Tree Trimmer License** is issued to a sole proprietor of a business organization or governmental agency that can show it has the required number of employees, including subcontractors (one for each job site), who have completed the training course(s) offered by Broward County Extension Education or another acceptable course and have passed the examination.

**Note:** Both Class A and B licenses are valid for a **maximum** of two years; they expire on August 31.



## How Can I Get a License?

For a license application and instruction packet, visit us on the web at [broward.org/PermittingAndLicensing](http://broward.org/PermittingAndLicensing); visit our office or call **954-765-4400**.

Applicants must complete all paperwork and submit it with the following documents and required fees. Only fully completed applications will be processed:

- Proof of adequate worker's compensation insurance as required by law
- Certification of liability insurance
- Proof of basic training in proper pruning practices as described below:

**Class A License:** Proof of Certified Arborist or Registered Arborist qualification and the affidavit as described under "Class A Tree Trimmer License."

**Class B License:** Proof of training as described under "Class B Tree Trimming License."





## How Can I Renew My License?

Licenses are renewed for two-year periods. You must complete the necessary paperwork, provide the required documentation and pay all fees. For the Class B Tree Trimmer license, you must also provide proof you have completed and passed the examination for the Tree Trimmer II program since your previous license was granted. To get a renewal form, visit us on the web at [broward.org/PermittingAndLicensing](http://broward.org/PermittingAndLicensing) and click "Forms" or call us at **954-765-4400**.

## Extension Education Training Program

Classes are conducted in English and Spanish at various sites around the County. Classes provide continuing instruction on a variety of aspects of tree trimming, including safety, before and after storm, work and proper pruning practices, according to American National Standards Institute A300 guidelines.

For a complete schedule of class meeting dates, locations and other information or to register for a class, call **954-357-5270** or visit [broward.org/Extension](http://broward.org/Extension).

**Note:** You must register and pay the class fee at least 10 working days before the scheduled class date.

## Enforcement

We vigorously enforce the Tree Trimmer licensing ordinance. Our enforcement officers look for unlicensed tree trimmers and for tree trimmer crews working without a qualified person present on the job site. Violations are subject to a notice of violation, a citation or a "stop work" order. Citations may require a hearing before a hearing officer who can impose fines up to \$15,000 per day, depending on the severity of the infraction.

### LOCALLY LICENSED

Broward County Contractor Licensing  
Investigations and Enforcement Services

**954-765-4400**

[broward.org/PermittingAndLicensing](http://broward.org/PermittingAndLicensing)



A Service of the Broward County  
Board of County Commissioners

Permitting, Licensing and  
Consumer Protection Division  
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Plantation, FL 33324-2038  
**954-765-4400**

[broward.org/PermittingAndLicensing](http://broward.org/PermittingAndLicensing)

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# TREE TRIMMER LICENSING

## INVESTIGATIONS & ENFORCEMENT SERVICES

