

How to Keep your Trees Healthy

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Michigan State University

Healthy trees add beauty to our homes and parks. They help cool and clean the air, deaden sound, and provide shade. Here's what you can do to help keep your trees healthy:

1. Use fencing or other protection around trees near construction sites — prevent wounds.
2. Avoid changing the normal drainage pattern.
3. Keep pedestrian and other traffic patterns away from trees to prevent soil compaction.
4. Help to control air pollution by working with environmental agencies, keeping your car tuned, and obeying open-burning ordinances.
5. Be careful not to run into trees with lawn and garden equipment. As a precaution, keep grass away from tree trunks.
6. Be careful in your choice of lawn and garden chemicals. Use them only as recommended on the label.
7. Avoid or minimize the use of salt around your trees.
8. Build campfires away from trees.
9. Treat wounds properly and immediately.
10. Remove injured or diseased branches before they die. Prune branches close to the trunk or connecting branch.
11. Use proper planting techniques for new trees. For specific planting guides, consult an expert.
12. Water and fertilize properly, especially with young trees.
13. Establish a sound maintenance program.
14. Keep dead wood away from trees — practice sanitation.

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How to Kill Your Tree

“Let me count the ways”

- 1. Plant too deep.**
- 2. Plant too shallow.**
- 3. Plant in soil that’s too dry or too wet.**
- 4. Damage roots during construction.**
- 5. Change the landscape drastically near the tree.**
- 6. Hit it with a lawn mower time and time again.**
- 7. Build a patio around it.**
- 8. Build a walk that goes right by it.**
- 9. Inflict a wound (with a knife, axe, during construction).**
- 10. Prune improperly.**
- 11. Over-fertilize.**
- 12. Use salt around your trees in the winter.**
- 13. Thin out the area greatly.**
- 14. Give it sudden exposure to the sun.**
- 15. Let low heavy branches form; they’ll break off during a storm.**
- 16. Plant too close to your house.**

And on

and on

and on

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