



# Timber Harvest & Tree Removal Practices, Permit Issuance, & Guidelines

Brochure #38



**KITSAP COUNTY**  
**Department of Community Development (DCD)**

Your partner in building safe, resilient, sustainable Kitsap County communities

## **Overview**

Timber harvest activities are regulated through Kitsap County Code Chapter 18.16, and the Washington State Forest Practices Act RCW 76.09.

DCD manages timber harvest permit issuance and provides Kitsap County Code Compliance oversight for specific timber harvest and tree removal within Kitsap County. DCD additionally processes Class 4 General Permits; also known as Site Evaluation Permits and Timber Harvest permits.

The Department of National Resources (DNR) processes Class 2 and Class 3 permits. For information on these permit types, please visit DNR online at [www.dnr.wa.gov/programs-and-services/forest-practices](http://www.dnr.wa.gov/programs-and-services/forest-practices).

## **Permit Types**

Permit types issued by Kitsap County include the:

- Site Evaluation Permit for Danger Tree Removal,
- Site Evaluation Permit for Danger Tree Harvest,
- Site Evaluation Permit for View Enhancement,
- Timber Harvest Minor Permit, and
- Timber Harvest Major Permit.

The next few pages of this brochure will explain each one.



## **Site Evaluation Permit for Danger Tree Removal**

A Site Evaluation Permit for Danger Tree can be issued for two unique tree removal scenarios.

It can be issued for an existing residential or commercial building structure that is in immediate danger of incurring damage from a tree. The tree that presents the threat is generally within a tree-length and one-half from the home or structure, and when removed, the wood product would be for personal use.



Additionally, if the tree is located near a critical area, its removal will require an Arborist Assessment and possibly other additional reports. As you complete your permit application questionnaire, you will become aware of such requirements.



**Secondly, the Site Evaluation Permit for Danger Tree Removal can be issued when a property owner wishes to install a well or a utility source before beginning the building site permit application process.**

The tree(s) are targeted for removal to build a home, and they are generally within 1½ tree-length from the proposed home's location. If the trees are located beyond a 1 ½ tree-length from the intended home location, a Kitsap County Timber Harvest Permit will be required for the removal.

When applying for your Site Evaluation Permit for Danger Tree Removal to erect a new home or structure, it is essential to consider how your project site will manage stormwater. Removing trees before considering stormwater management, and how the absence of those trees can potentially result in increased stormwater management **can result in increased project time and costs.**

## **Site Evaluation Permit for Danger Tree Removal Cont'd.**

It is subsequently recommended that Site Evaluation Permit for Danger Tree Removal be completed in tandem with Stormwater Management considerations in order to thoroughly understand how the proposed tree removal will impact stormwater requirements.

## **Site Evaluation for Danger Tree Harvest**

This permit type is required when cutting or removing more than 5,000 board feet (approx. 1½ log trucks) of trees located within a tree length and a half of any habitable structure.

The Site Evaluation for Danger Tree Harvest permit provides for the logging, transportation, and sale of logs. This permit is typically selected when the objective is to remove all trees generally within the 1½ tree lengths of an occupied building.



## **Site Evaluation Permit for View Enhancement**



The View Enhancement Site Evaluation Permit is issued when the objective is cutting, trimming, or removing trees to create or maintain a view corridor.

The permit issuance process evaluates the proposed removal to ensure critical area impacts are appropriately addressed..

## **Timber Harvest Permit**

The Timber Harvest Permit is issued for two different types of tree-removal permit levels: Minor and Major.



### **Timber Harvest/Minor**

This permit is issued for tree clearing of 5 acres or less, tree clearing for a Single Family Residence (SFR) on one tax account number with no critical areas, and tree clearing in association with a Site Development Activity Permit (SDAP).

### **Timber Harvest/Major**

This permit is issued for tree clearing of more than 5 acres, large scale commercial timber operations, properties with critical areas (including clearing for an SFR).

### **Does All Tree Removal Require A Permit?**

If your tree removal project meets **all** of the following conditions, a permit is not required.

It is best to consult DCD Permit Services before removing the trees - even if you believe it meets all the below criteria - to avoid code compliance issues.

- There are no critical areas; including Wildlife Habitat Conservation Areas;
- The trees are not required plat, short plat, or large lot perimeter buffers;
- The trees are near a residence (generally within one tree length and one-half);
- Tree removal is for less than 5,000 board feet of timber;
- A licensed, bonded, and insured tree service will remove the trees as non-merchantable pieces.
- Stumps are retained, and no grading or earthwork is proposed.
- Grading (i.e. clearing property) less than 7,000

## **Additional Timber Harvest Permit Options**

In addition to Kitsap County tree removal permits, the **Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Forest Practices** issues permits for specific types of tree removal.

If you elect to use a State DNR permit, Kitsap County automatically imposes a 6-year development moratorium

**Please visit the Department of Natural Resources website for guidelines on these permit types.**

**<https://www.dnr.wa.gov/programs-andservices/forest-practices>**



## **Conversion Requirements**

Conversion refers to changing the use of the land as it currently exists. If you intend to develop your property within three years of logging, the removal will require a “Conversion” Forest Practice Application. In this instance you will need to complete the DNR application form and the Kitsap County Timber Harvest Permit Application packet.

The Department of Natural Resources application forms are included in the Kitsap County packet. If you intend to continue growing trees for at least three years after the proposed logging activity, a “Non-Conversion” Forest Practice Application must be obtained directly from the Department of Natural Resources. A Kitsap County Timber Harvest Permit will not be required.



Please note, that a 6-year development moratorium (a temporary prohibition of activity) will be placed on these logged properties. During the moratorium, Kitsap County Department of Community Development will not issue development permits for the property.

If you are undecided about future development activities or you want to avoid a development moratorium you may apply for a Conversion Option Harvest Plan (COHP) through the Kitsap County Timber Harvest Permit and Department of Natural Resources Forest Practice Application process.

A COHP is an agreement between the applicant and Kitsap County that may allow a limited tree harvest under less restrictive permit conditions. Kitsap County agrees not to impose a moratorium if you comply with COHP conditions of approval. If the terms of the COHP are violated, the County may impose a 6-year moratorium on permits.

**Property logged without a Timber Harvest Permit from Kitsap County will receive an automatic 6-year moratorium for development permits even if otherwise permitted through the Department of Natural Resources.**

## **How Do I Obtain My Permit?**

The first step in obtaining your tree removal permit is to review the various permit types and select the option that describes your tree removal scenario.

Once you've identified your scenario and permit type, visit the DCD Online Permit Center to begin your permit application.

<https://www.kitsapgov.com/dcd/Pages/Timber-Harvest--Tree-Removal.aspx>

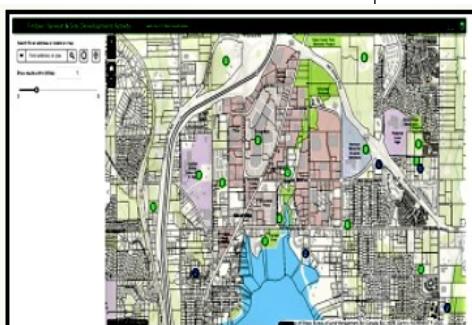


## **I Hear Logging In My Neighborhood.**

### **How Can I Verify it is Authorized?**

DCD provides a “Tree Activity Permit Locator” online mapping tool.

Using the above website link , you can access this search tool and look-up all Kitsap County authorized permits that have been issued. If you have concerns about whether tree removal in your neighborhood, visit us online to search for active permits. Additionally, if you have questions or concerns, you may contact Kitsap 1 at 360-337-5777, or by email at [help@kitsap1.com](mailto:help@kitsap1.com).



## **Good To Know Terms**

Tree Clearing, Conversion, Tree-length, Excise tax, and more good-to-know terms may be viewed online at

<https://www.kitsapgov.com/dcd/Pages/Glossary.aspx>

## **Helpful Links**

### **Permit Center**

<https://www.kitsapgov.com/dcd/Pages/Timber-Harvest--Tree-Removal.aspx>

### **DCD Brochures**

<https://www.kitsapgov.com/dcd/FormsandBrochures>

### **DCD Parcel Search**

<https://ags.kitsapgov.com/psearch/index.html>



## **Kitsap County Department of Community Development**

### **Our Mission**

Foster the development of quality, affordable, safe and environmentally sound communities.

## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

### **Kitsap County:**

Kitsap1 Helpline: 360-337-5777  
Email: help@kitsap1.com  
Website: [www.kitsapgov.com](http://www.kitsapgov.com)  
Planner of the Day: 360-337-5777

### **Public Works:** 360-337-5777

Right of Way Website:  
<http://www.kitsapgov.com/pw/row.htm>

### **Kitsap Public Health District:**

345 6th Street ,Suite 300  
Bremerton, WA 98337  
P: 360-337-5235 / F: 360-337-5291  
Website: [kitsappublichealth.org](http://kitsappublichealth.org)

### **Puget Sound Energy:**

General Information: 1-888-225-5773  
Website: [www.pse.com](http://www.pse.com)

### **Cascade Natural Gas:**

6313 Kitsap Way, Bremerton, WA 98312  
P: 360-373-1403  
Website: [www.cngc.com](http://www.cngc.com)

### **Home Builders Association:**

5251 Auto Center Way, Bremerton, WA  
98312  
P: 360-479-4210  
Website: [www.kitsaphba.com](http://www.kitsaphba.com)



### **Kitsap County Department of Community Development**

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[www.kitsapgov.com/dcd](http://www.kitsapgov.com/dcd); Email:[help@kitsap1.com](mailto:help@kitsap1.com); Phone/(360) 337-5777; Fax (360) 337-4925