



TREE REMOVAL PROCEDURE

The removal of trees in the Town of Atherton is regulated by the City Council. Chapter 8.10 of the Atherton Municipal Code requires a Heritage Tree Removal Permit prior to the removal of certain trees located on private property. Any tree meeting either of the following may be removed without a permit:

1. The tree, located anywhere on the lot, smaller than 48" in circumference, when measured 48" above grade, or;
2. The tree, of any size, other than native oak (*Quercus*) species, located in the 'Building or Dwelling Area'. This is the area within a lot in which the dwelling may be constructed.
3. The following tree species are not classified as heritage trees regardless of size: *Acacia baileyana*; *Acacia decurrens*; *Acacia melanoxylon*; *Ailanthus altissima*.

All other trees cannot be removed unless a permit has been issued to the property owner or tree professional.

- A. **Dead or Dangerous Trees:** Removal permits for dead or dangerous trees may be issued by the Town Arborist or the Building Official. To receive this type of permit you must complete the Application for Removal of a Dead or Dangerous Tree. You may be required to submit a written report addressing the condition of the tree or trees from either:
 1. A Registered Professional Forester licensed by the State of California.
 2. An International Society of Arboriculture certified arborist or,
 3. A member of the American Society of Consulting Arborists
- B. **All Other Trees:** A Heritage Tree Removal Permit must be approved by the Planning Commission prior to the removal of any tree not meeting 1, 2 or 3 above, and, not determined to be dead or dangerous. Any native oak species (*Quercus*) 48" or more in circumference, located in the Allowable Buildable Area must go before the Planning Commission for approval. (See back for Heritage Removal Permit Procedure)

Prior to issuance of the permit an inspection will be made to confirm the existing conditions. Upon completion of the tree removal the building department shall be notified by the homeowner or contractor.

The Town Arborist may grant the permit specifying mitigation measures, such as, but not limited to, requiring replacement of the tree or trees removed with trees of a size acceptable to the Town Arborist.