



Timber Cove Homes Association Architectural Guidelines

TCHA Tree Cutting Policy & Burn Guidelines

Adopted TBD

A tree cutting form is required to be submitted to TCHA when trees are cut and the tree is more than 4 inches in diameter measured 4 feet above the ground. If a tree is leaning dangerously and may fall, it is appropriate to cut down the tree and submit a tree cutting form after the fact. Take a picture of the leaning tree(s) prior to cutting and include it with the tree cutting form. Trees that have fallen due to wind, storms, etc. do not need a tree cutting form submitted.

The tree cutting form is located at the end of this policy or on timbercovehomes.org under the Governing & Business Documents tab. Any questions may be directed to the TCHA Office Manager (timbercovehomes@gmail.com) or a Board Member.

Small Diameter Trees:

TCHA property owners may remove small trees (trunk diameter less than 4 inches measured 4 feet above the ground) from their lots at their discretion provided that the removal process does not adversely affect screening between lots (as determined by mutual agreement between the lot owners involved). Trees shall be cut to minimize damage to other standing trees. Brush shall be removed in a timely manner.

Defensible Space:

Lot owners are required to follow the CAL FIRE defensible space guidelines. Check the CAL FIRE website for additional information: [CAL FIRE Defensible Space](http://www.fire.ca.gov/dspace) (www.fire.ca.gov/dspace)

Large Trees (greater than 4 inches in diameter measured 4 feet above the ground):

1. Approval for the removal of any tree must be granted by the Board, or their Agent. The application form is available at the end of this document or on timbercovehomes.org under the governing documents page.
2. Redwoods are a preferred species and are to be protected whenever possible. A permit is required to cut/remove redwood trees.
3. Lot owners are solely responsible for determining whether any tree on their lot to be trimmed or removed requires a permit from the County of Sonoma prior to trimming or removal.
4. The completed tree cutting form shall be submitted to the TCHA Office Manager or submitted online via the timbercovehomes.org website.
5. A lot owner wishing to receive approval for tree cutting shall flag or mark all trees in question with removable plastic tape (not paint) or be onsite when the request is reviewed by a Board



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member or their Agent.

6. The TCHA Board or Agent will review the trees in question and may give approval on site for certain species of trees, excluding redwood trees. A confirmation email will follow.
7. If further review is needed, the owner may need to consult a professional forester, at the owner's expense.
8. Once approval has been granted, trees shall be cut in a manner that minimizes damage to other standing trees.
9. Denied requests may be appealed to the TCHA Board.
10. Brush shall be removed in a timely manner, or as soon as burning is permitted. Brush from healthy trees can also be chipped and broadcast on the lot.

Redwood Trees:

If the trees to be cut or limbed are Redwood trees greater than 4 inches in diameter, a member must submit a tree cutting form to alert the Board and then contact the Permit Sonoma for approval to cut.

Approval Criteria:

Tree removal may be approved in the following circumstances:

1. If the tree is diseased, dying, or dead. (Evaluation by a professional forester may be required.)
2. To comply with CAL FIRE defensible space guidelines. (www.fire.ca.gov/dspace)

Other Evaluation Criteria:

1. Will the removal of trees significantly decrease the screening between the applicant's lot and its neighbor's lot?

BEFORE BURNING:

Sonoma County burn permits are required for any burning in the Timber Cove area: See: Burn Permit Application (<https://nosocoair.org/open-burn-portal/>)

You may also require a CAL FIRE burn permit at certain times of the year: CAL Fire Burn Permit (<https://burnpermit.fire.ca.gov/>)

For questions, contact:

Northern Sonoma County Air Pollution Control District Air
Pollution Control District
150 Matheson Street
Healdsburg, CA 95448
(707) 433-5911



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- Once you obtain a County Burn Permit, call 707-565-2876 to determine if the day will be a burn day.
- If so, notify Fire Dispatch of the location of the burn (press “1” at the end of your call about the permissible burn day or call 707-565-2121 for Fire Dispatch).
- Please also inform the TCHA Office Manager at 707-847-3062. Please leave a message if no one answers.

Tree Cutting Form

The online version of this form is located on timbercovehomes.org under the governing documents page.

Email Address: _____

Date: _____

Full Name: _____

Site Address: _____

Phone: _____

Number of Trees to Remove: _____

Are Any of the Trees to Remove Redwood Trees? _____

Reason for Removal: _____

Please include photos of your site and trees to remove.