



Pruning Trees in Preparation of Storms

Improperly pruning trees before a storm can actually increase the possibility that they will break or fall more easily during the storm. The fact is when a tree is improperly cut its branches are even more vulnerable to strong winds. Experts recommend that you prepare prior to hurricane season by doing the following:

- If you must prune trees, do so during the tree species dormant season or during early Spring.
- Make sure the lawn care worker/tree trimmer is a certified arborist. Ask to see their registration/license and insurance. Get a quote in writing.
- Never "top" or "hatrack" any tree. "Hattracking" is the term used for when a tree is cut or chopped so badly that it is left with few or no leaves on the branches
- Do not remove more than 25% of the tree canopy (the branches and leaves of the tree).
- Do not cut the tree root system.
- Remove mainly the interior branches. This will thin the canopy of the tree and allow the winds to pass through it more easily.
- Make sure to correctly dispose of all tree cuttings since branches and stumps left out in the open can become projectiles during a storm.
- You can even schedule two [bulky waste pickups](#) from the Department of Public Works and Waste Management. The Department allows the collection of up to 25 cubic yards of trash (1 truck load), twice per fiscal year (October 1 – September 30). Additional pickups may be scheduled for \$21 per cubic yard (\$525 per truck load).
- Contact North Miami's Parks and Recreation Department to submit tree service requests for City swales and right-of-ways. **Click [here](#) to fill out the request Form.**

If residents follow these easy tips, the impact from tree damage during a storm can be reduced. Remember: it is very important for residents not to over-prune trees. This ultimately weakens the new growth and creates a potentially more dangerous condition.