

## CARLISLE SHADE TREE COMMISSION

### Street Tree Pruning Regulations

Remove all dead, pest-infested or diseased branches and interfering branches. Examples of interfering branches are crossovers, piggy-backs, waterspouts and suckers. Smaller branches that might prove undesirable in the future should also be considered interfering.

Proper pruning should create a well-balanced spatial relationship between all the major scaffold branches of the tree. See Exhibit B. In addition, on mature trees, limbs should be raised 8' above the sidewalk and 14' above the street, taking care to not remove more than 1/3 of the live crown of the tree. On younger trees, or trees that do not attain much height at maturity, limbs should be elevated only to the height that achieves good balance and aesthetics.

Do not perform severe heading back, topping or dehorning to a tree unless specific authorization is given by the Shade Tree Committee. See Exhibit A. Where applicable, utility companies may trim branches around their wires as opposed to topping off the trees.

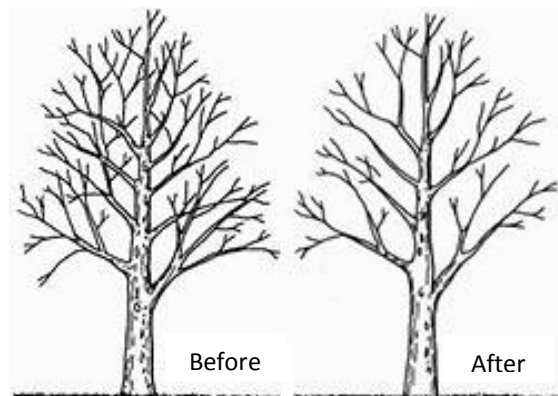
Severing of large branches should be done in such a way as to not cause ripping of the bark below the final cut. This means that a preliminary undercut should be made followed by a top cut, thus de-limbing the branch and leaving a short stub. The final cut is to remove the stub.

All cuts should be made clean and according to the directions listed in Exhibit C. When removing dead, dying and diseased branches, or live cutting limbs to relieve weight stress, cut the branch back to a healthy crotch so that sound tissue surrounds the final cut. When pruning limbs which are disproportionately heavy, the remaining lateral branches should have symmetry and balance as related to the surrounding limbs. When pruning for view, it is preferable to develop spaces between branches or windows through the foliage rather than severely raising or reducing the crown of the tree.



**Exhibit A - Improper Pruning**

Topping a tree produces many vigorous, weakly attached branches and destroys the natural form of the tree.



**Exhibit B – Proper Pruning**

Thin the tree crown by removing interfering branches. Leave as large a lateral branch at the end of the cut as possible. Cut just outside the branch collar. Do not leave any stubs.

### Pruning Directions

1. When making the final cut, place the saw or shears outside the branch collar.
2. Cut down and slightly out from the outer portion of the ridge to prevent injury to or removal of the collar.
3. Always use sharp tools.
4. Never leave stubs beyond the branch collar.
5. Paint the wound only for cosmetic reasons, if desired. Apply just a thin coat.

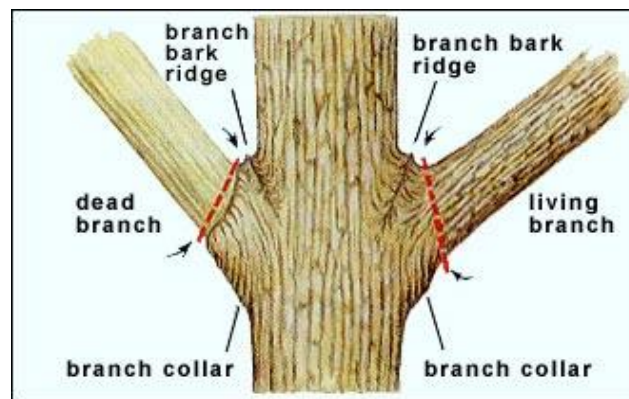


Exhibit C