



Tree Removal Cost Guide



HMI has published the industry's most comprehensive **Tree Removal Cost Guide** (Guide) since 2017. The Guide was originally prepared following a comprehensive labor rate study conducted by HMI, focused on hourly rates for professional tree care workers across the country. A broad representation of companies in the HMI Authorized Member Network (Network) were interviewed to **determine the range of hours and types of equipment necessary to complete tree removal work** across a range of tree sizes and conditions. The Guide is reviewed and updated regularly to reflect changes in labor rates, equipment costs, and market conditions. Please be sure to use the latest version.

The Guide is a reliable resource for costs involving tree work completed by professional and fully credentialed tree crews in the HMI Network. It is not to be used as a fixed-rate card, or to reflect tree removal work completed by companies outside of the Network, or by general contractors, landscapers, or other companies that may offer similar services. Ranges included capture most of the complexity and variability that may occur when removing trees from homes or other structures. They are intended to cover roughly 85% of scenarios that may occur.

Variables Impacting Tree Removal Costs

Tree Size: The diameter of the trunk at breast height (DBH) is a standard way for the tree care industry to gauge size/mass of a tree. Note that the Guide classifies seven DBH ranges from 8" to 48". However, the size of the crown (branches) also plays a key role in determining costs and contributes to variances in pricing on trees of the same DBH.

Complexity of Work Required: The location of the tree(s) and access for the proper equipment and/or labor contribute significantly to pricing. HMI has established price ranges intended to cover both "Standard" and Non-Standard" tree removal conditions as defined below:

- **Standard conditions** indicate that the tree can be easily/safely reached with the necessary equipment or personnel. This means the tree is in an accessible area and there are no proximate hazards that the crew will need to work around. It also means the tree is not heavily imbedded into a structure or otherwise situated in a way that adds technical complexity and/or safety risk to the removal.
- **Non-Standard removals** typically involve trees that are difficult to access, such as trees behind homes, in fenced or inaccessible yards, or when a steep slope is involved. They may also involve proximate hazards, such as power lines, hazardous/hanging trees or limbs, or septic fields. Trees that have completely broken-through into a building can also present additional technical challenges, and thus increased costs, along with trees that are seen to be 'spring-loaded' or excessively unbalanced, which may pose significant danger to the crew and property.

Labor, Equipment, Fuel & Other Costs

The Guide was developed assuming "typical" operating costs. Factors such as overtime on emergency assignments, or inflated costs for labor, fuel, and equipment during CAT events can increase costs beyond what is contemplated in the Guide. Deploying crews in support of a CAT response will be more expensive due to increased living expenses. These costs can add 25% or more to standard pricing.

NOTE: The Guide is intended to cover the costs to remove a single fallen tree from a structure.

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Standard Removal

Standard removal generally means that the tree can be safely reached and removed using customary equipment or by qualified climbers. Customary equipment could include a bucket truck, aerial lift, small loader, etc. The costs in the chart reflect the removal of a single tree and do not include debris removal costs.

Tree Size (DBH*)	8" - 12"	13" - 18"	19" - 24"	25" - 30"	31" - 36"	37" - 42"	43" - 48"
Price Range	\$620-\$1,667	\$937-\$3,003	\$1,687-\$4,434	\$1,989-\$5,361	\$2,431-\$6,075	\$3,080-\$7,570	\$3,326-\$8,767
Labor Hours	6 to 10	10 to 18	16 to 25	18 to 30	22 to 34	25 to 32	27 to 36
Customary Equipment	Bucket Truck	Bucket Truck	Bucket Truck	Bucket Truck, Small Loader	Bucket Truck, Small Loader	Bucket Truck, Small Loader, Crane	Bucket Truck, Small Loader, Crane

Non-Standard Removal

Non-standard removals are more complex due to access or safety concerns and may require special considerations and/or equipment. This includes tree removals that may require specialty equipment or extra labor. Examples include tree removals near obstacles; on a slope; that have limited access; that have penetrated the exterior of the structure and require inside access; that are spring-loaded or require bracing, etc.

Tree Size (DBH*)	8" - 12"	13" - 18"	19" - 24"	25" - 30"	31" - 36"	37" - 42"	43" - 48"
Price Range	\$1,366-\$2,724	\$2,600-\$5,217	\$3,900-\$6,419	\$4,550-\$9,176	\$5,199-\$11,085	\$5,979-\$12,412	\$6,643-\$13,136
Labor Hours	10 to 15	16 to 27	22 to 32	25 to 39	32 to 44	34 to 54	38 to 58
Customary Equipment	Bucket Truck	Bucket Truck, Small Loader	Bucket Truck, Small Loader	Bucket Truck, Small Loader, Crane	Bucket Truck, Small Loader, Crane	Bucket Truck, Small Loader, Crane	Bucket Truck, Small Loader, Crane

* DBH: Diameter of the tree at breast height, generally 4 1/2 feet above ground.

This Guide was developed using data provided by the professional tree care companies in HMI's Network. The Guide, therefore, is intended to reflect expected costs for work performed under HMI's tree removal program.



- * The Labor Hours and Customary Equipment data in the chart are included as guidelines only. Tree care companies differ in their utilization of heavy equipment and labor. Some companies prefer to use heavy equipment in place of labor which can reduce the total time a tree removal job may take. The net job costs will be the same, or similar.
- *The costs in the chart reflect the removal of a single tree and do not include debris removal costs.*
- *The price ranges illustrated in the chart reflect the varying labor costs across the country. They also are intended to capture most of the complexity/variability that may occur when removing trees from the home which may alter equipment and labor costs widely. The chart is intended to cover roughly 85% of scenarios that may occur. Extreme situations may occur where the costs above are not representative. Highly specialized and more experienced crews may also increase costs.*
- *Emergency tree removals and CAT events may increase these costs by 25% or more depending on certain conditions; e.g. overtime labor hours, out of state crews, inflated fuel costs, etc.*
- *This Guide is for informational purposes only and it does not have the purpose or effect of raising, depressing, fixing, pegging, or stabilizing the price of any product or service.*

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