

CHRISTMAS TREE FREE-USE PERMIT DIRECTIONS

Who May Apply For A Free-Use Christmas Tree Permit

Any resident of BC who is 19 yrs or older is allowed to cut their own Christmas tree free of charge from Crown Land with proper permission.

Where Can I Apply for Permission?

Apply at your local Forest District Office. The forest office will issue a letter of authorization and may provide you with information where you can cut a tree. Carry your Free-Use Permit with you, as you may be asked to produce it.

Where Do I Cut a Tree?

You can only cut a tree from areas designated for this purpose. These areas are the Crown portions of the following:

- ◆ Hydro right-of-ways (except areas where Christmas trees are being grown commercially);
- ◆ Logging roads (within 3 metres (10 ft) of the edge of the road);
- ◆ Open range lands; and
- ◆ Highway 97, Hwy 16 & Hwy 5 (within 3 metres (10 ft) of the edge of the road).

Cut your tree from dry, rocky sites or south slopes within the permitted areas. They produce better trees.

Are There Areas Where I Must Not Cut Christmas Trees?

Yes. You cannot cut a Christmas Tree from Private Lands, Plantations, Research areas, Parks, Adjacent to rivers, streams, lakes or swamps, Juvenile spaced areas, or any other areas reserved for a special use.

How Many Trees Can I Cut?

You are allowed to cut one tree per family unless otherwise indicated by the district manager.

What Species of Tree Should I Cut (Tree Qualities)?

Balsam: Aromatic, uniform, rich dark green colour. Under part of tree should be covered in pitch.
Spruce: Rich green colour, uniform taper. Pointed needles, good choice to stop a cat from climbing.
Lodgepole Pine: Uniform shape if grown in the open. Decorations hung near the main stem can still be seen.
Douglas Fir: Traditional choice. Dry sites produce the best Christmas trees.

What Should I Do Before Cutting a Tree?

Make sure that you have chosen the best tree and the size you want. Try to leave the bottom 1 – 2 branches on the stump of the tree. Do not cut a big tree only to use the top portion. This may be a waste of a future tree and the portion left on the area may create a fire hazard.

What Should I Do After Cutting a Tree?

Leave the area as clean as possible. Do not leave lower boles and branches of cut trees alongside roads or ditches. Do not transport your tree outside the Province.

Safety

- ◆ Be prepared for winter roads conditions. Many Forest Service Roads will have heavy traffic (logging trucks), even on weekends;
- ◆ If planning to cut trees from BC Hydro easements, please read & honour the **BC Hydro Guidelines**:
Do Not Cut or Remove any trees that may be within 7m (20ft) of an electrical conductor. Take care when travelling or cutting in the vicinity of electrical works such as towers, poles, transformers & guy wires. You are responsible for all damages. Cut all trees off flat with the stump no higher than 4 inches. Clean up & remove all debris & slash associated with your activity. Leave all access roads in good condition.
- ◆ You are fully responsible for yourself and anyone who is with you.

Cutting Christmas trees free of charge is strictly for personal use ONLY.

Your are not allowed to sell them.

Failure to comply is an unauthorized harvest on Crown Land under the *Forest and Range Practices Act*. Unauthorized cutting may be further subject to prosecution under the *Criminal Code of Canada*.

NOTE: Please be very careful of traffic. Active logging operations are occurring in all areas and logging trucks may be hauling on weekends. Only park in a manner and in locations where it is safe to do so. No debris or slash to be left on the highway or on any Rights-of-Ways.