



CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH PUBLIC WORKS

3621 Bell Avenue, Manhattan Beach, CA 90266

FIELD OPERATIONS DIVISION

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City of Manhattan Beach Tree and Palm Pruning Specifications

I. Tree Pruning:

All tree pruning shall include, structural pruning, crown raising, crown cleaning, and crown reduction in accordance with the standards set forth by the International Society of Arboriculture Pruning Standards (Best Management Practices) and the ANSI A300 Standards. No less than 10% and no more than 25% of the foliage is to be removed in a growing season.

- (a) Contractor shall comply with Standards of CAL OSHA and the American National Standard Institute, Z133 Safety Requirements.
- (b) No hooks, gaffs, spurs, or climbers will be used while climbing trees other than for removals and inaccessible Palms when needed.
- (c) Final pruning cuts shall be made without leaving stubs. Cuts shall be made in a manner to promote fast callous growth.
- (d) Topping is prohibited.
- (e) The specific techniques employed shall be consistent with industry practice for the size and species of tree being trimmed. All dead, broken, damaged, diseased or insect-infested limbs shall be removed at the trunk or main branch. All cuts shall be made sufficiently close, ½ inch, to the parent stem so that callus wood can readily start under normal conditions. All limbs 2" or greater shall be undercut to prevent splitting. The remaining limbs and branches shall not be split or broken at the cut. All crossed or rubbing limbs shall be removed unless removal will result in large gaps in the general outline of the tree
- (k) Cut laterals to preserve the natural form of the tree. Remove lateral branches at their point of origin, or shorten the length of a branch by cutting to a lateral, which is large enough to assume dominance or 1/3 the size of the parent limb removed. Tree foliage shall be reduced by at least fifteen (10%) percent but no more than twenty-five (25%) percent in a growing season.
- (l) Trim to remove dead wood or weak, diseased, insect-infested, broken, low, or crossing limbs. Branches with an extremely narrow-angle of attachment should normally be removed.
- (m) Small limbs, including suckers and waterspouts, shall be cut close to the trunk or branch from which they arise.
- (n) Heading, rounding over, or stubbing shall not be an accepted practice for reducing the size or the framework of any tree.

MISSION: To build, maintain, and protect our small beach town community with a passion for excellence.

VALUES: Safety · Integrity · Proactivity · Teamwork · Creativity

2. **Pruning for Clearance:**

As directed by city staff, tree pruning for traffic clearances shall provide clearances of eighteen (18') feet above finish grade for moving vehicles within the traveled roadway, and nine (9') feet for pedestrians on sidewalks in accordance with standards set forth by the International Society of Arboriculture Pruning Standards (Best Management Practices) and the ANSI A300 Standards under "Pruning to Raise.". Clearances for adjacent structures shall conform to the following:

1. The minimum clearance under trees within the street right-of-way shall be seventeen (17') feet over the traveled road, and nine feet (9') over the curb line and the sidewalk side of the tree. When pruning the bottom branches, care shall be given to obtain a balanced appearance when viewed from across the street immediately opposite the tree.
2. Cut to laterals to preserve the natural form of the tree. Remove lateral branches at their point of origin, or shorten the length of a branch by cutting to a lateral, which is large enough to assume dominance or 1/3 the size of the parent limb removed.
3. When cutting back, avoid cutting back to small suckers. Remove smaller limbs and twigs in such a manner as to leave the foliage pattern evenly distributed.


3. **Palm Pruning:**

Palm tree pruning shall consist of the removal of loose dead fronds, fruit clusters, and other vegetation from the trunks of the palm(s) in accordance with the following:

- a. The use of climbing spurs or spike shoes for the purpose of climbing palm trees is prohibited. The Contractor shall be required to use an aerial tower with sufficient height to reach the crown for the purpose of palm pruning.
- b. Palm pruning shall consist of the removal of dead fronds, fruit, flowers, and shall be removed without excessive damage to remaining live tissue. Annual palm pruning shall include the skinned (removal of sheath/petiole) of thirty-six (36") inches of the previous year's remaining sheath/petiole. The skinning shall not encroach within thirty-six (36") inches from the base of the green fronds, at the top of the palm.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 310-802-5305 or earea@manhattanbeach.gov

Respectfully,



Ernest Area
Urban Forester
City of Manhattan Beach