



## Situations That May Call for Tree Removal Here in Kensington Article 7-10

### ● A Storm Hit

Even the toughest trees will bow and break in extreme storm conditions. The damage they sustain will depend on the type of storm.

- **Wind** High winds from rainstorms, windstorms, hurricanes or tornados are the most common cause of tree storm damage. “**wind throw**” happens when a tree’s canopy catches too much air, uprooting it from the soil. Another common tree injury is “**crown twist.**” An uneven canopy of branches and leaves will cause the tree to twist in the wind, potentially damaging the trunk beyond repair. A weaker tree may also undergo “**stem failure,**” or snapping of the trunk. *Without this support, a tree will fall or die.*
- **Water** Excess water from downpours and flooding can loosen sediment around the tree. This exposes the root system, especially in species with shallow roots, weakening the tree’s anchor and causing it to topple.
- **Snow and Ice** Heavy snowfall and ice buildup can overburden a tree’s boughs and cause the branches to break or the tree to split or collapse under the weight. Coniferous evergreens tend to stand up well against these conditions, whereas broadleaf evergreens hold more snow, increasing the risk of damage.
- **Lightning** Trees don’t fare much better against lightning than people do. A lightning strike will boil the water within a tree’s cells, peeling a long strip of bark off the tree or burning the wood and roots. In some cases, lightning can slice entire branches off the tree or cause an explosion.

### **Your Tree Looks Sick**

Sometimes a tree’s health problem comes from within. Fungi, viruses, and pests can enter a tree’s wounds and slowly kill it from the inside. At a certain point, your tree will no longer be salvageable, making emergency removal the quickest and safest solution. Signs of some tree disease include:



- Burnt, yellowed, wilted or spotted leaves
- Dusty white mildew
- Gall (lumpy or spherical growths)
- Clusters of new shoots
- Cankers (hollow pits)
- Holes in bark or leaves



### **Branches Are Broken**

Most broken branches can be removed with strategic pruning cuts without harming the tree, but there are certain situations where missing branches can cause imminent tree death.

**For example,** if a tree has lost **more than half its branches,** it won’t be able to produce enough leaves to feed itself during the next growing season. **Another issue is if a tree loses its leader – the longest, tallest branch – since this gives a tree its strength, stability, and form.**



### ***Your Tree Is Leaning***

A leaning tree may or may not be a cause for concern, depending on the tree's history. If your tree is suddenly leaning, growing at a severe angle, or showing other signs of damage like cracks or uprooting, it could fall. However, it's also possible for a tree to lean slowly over time to adjust itself away from your house or toward the sunlight. *A certified arborist will be able to tell you whether your tree's lean indicates structural damage.*

## DEAD WOOD

### ***Dead Trees Are a Safety Concern***

Your family and property's well-being are the number one reason to have a dead tree removed as soon as possible. Dead and decomposed trees have weakened integrity making them susceptible to snapping or uprooting during a strong windstorm, which is a major safety hazard for your family, home, and car.

Some of Georgia's most common trees are sizable to say the least – **Sugar Maples, Georgia Pine, Sweet Gum** for instance, can reach heights of 60 to 80 feet! But unfortunately, the larger the tree, the more damage it can cause.

### ***Falling Trees Could Cost You***

Not only could dead trees damage your property, but they could also make a dent in your wallet. If an overturned tree harms your property because of a storm, there is a good chance your homeowners' insurance will cover repair and debris removal costs. However, if the tree falls due to negligence – for example, it was clearly in poor condition and bound to fall – you will likely be on the hook for the damage, including if the tree topples into your neighbor's yard.

### ***Pests Love Dead Trees***

Deadwood is the preferred habitat for a variety of pests. Some use it as a living space while others graze off the fungi and bacteria growing inside the bored tunnels or even feed on the wood itself. Common deadwood dwellers include **Beetles ~ Hymenoptera ~ Fly larva ~ Mosquitos ~ Bees ~ Wasps**



This is not a problem for homeowners in and of itself, but if a pest-infested tree is near your doors and windows, there is a higher chance these creepy crawlies will make their way inside.

### ***Dead Trees Are Eye Sores***

This does not fall under the "urgent" category, but for many people, their home is a source of pride. If you have a large decaying tree in the front yard with peeling bark, bare branches, and a diseased trunk, it can be quite the eye sore.

### ***Dead Trees Spread Infectious Disease***

If your tree died because of a disease like chlorosis, powdery mildew, or white pine blister rust, you may want to have it removed before it can affect neighboring greenery. Just like with humans, many tree diseases are contagious and can easily spread to nearby plants.

