

Pruning is one of the most common and vital tree care operations we perform. It's an art and a science that allows us to achieve a wide range of important goals for your trees, ensuring their **structural integrity**, the **safety of people and property**, improved **access**, reduced **obstruction**, enhanced **light**, and greater **aesthetic value**.

Understanding the Types of Pruning

We categorise pruning into two main types:

- **Formative Pruning:** This is primarily for **young trees**. By carefully shaping them early on, we encourage them to grow into a strong, desired form, setting them up for a long and healthy life.
- **Remedial and Restorative Pruning:** This focuses on **established and older trees**. Here, we manage or modify the existing crown to address specific issues, improve health, or restore a more desirable shape.

Common forms of pruning we carry out include:

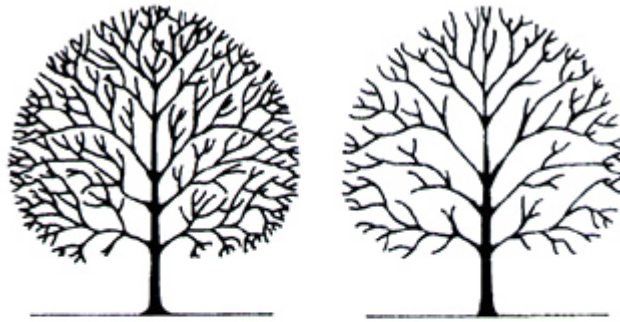
- **Crown Reduction:** Decreasing the overall height and spread of the crown.
 - **Crown Thinning:** Selectively removing branches to reduce density and improve light penetration and air circulation.
 - **Crown Lifting:** Removing lower branches to increase clearance beneath the canopy.
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Why Pruning Matters (and Why Less Can Be More)

When planned and executed correctly, pruning is incredibly beneficial. It can significantly **reduce the risk of structural failure**, thereby protecting people and property, and often **prolonging a tree's safe lifespan**.

However, it's crucial to understand that pruning is also a form of "controlled damage." It involves removing living tissue, which can disrupt the tree's natural systems and create wounds. These wounds can sometimes lead to decay within the wood, potentially causing weakness if not managed correctly.

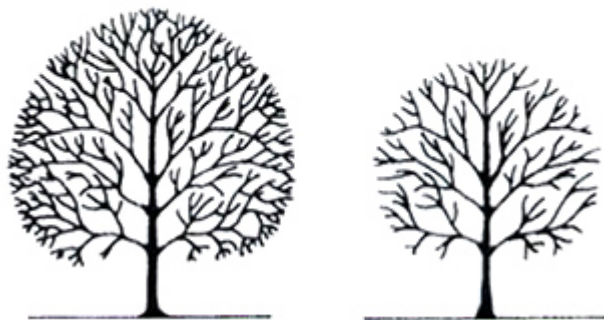
That's why our approach is always to perform the **minimum amount of pruning necessary** to achieve your specific objectives. We prioritise small, clean cuts to minimise wound size and impact, ensuring the long-term health and stability of your trees. Our expert arborists are highly skilled in precision pruning techniques that balance effectiveness with tree health.



Crown Thinning



Crown Lifting



Crown Reduction

Pollarding

Pollarding is a specialised pruning technique where we repeatedly cut a tree's branches back to the same points on the main stem or major branches. This encourages a dense flush of new, vigorous growth from these specific points, creating a unique and often formal shape. It's a method typically started when a tree is young and then maintained regularly.

Formative Pruning

Formative pruning focuses on shaping young trees. The main goal is to guide their growth early on, encouraging a strong, healthy structure that will be free from major weaknesses as they mature. This helps the tree complement its surroundings and meet the long-term management goals for your property.

Tree Felling (Dismantling & Straight Felling)

Tree felling is the complete removal of a tree.

- **Straight Felling:** The quickest method is to cut the tree at its base, allowing it to fall as a single unit to the ground. This is only safe and practical in open areas with plenty of space.
- **Dismantling:** In urban or confined spaces, straight felling isn't usually an option. Instead, our arborists will **dismantle** the tree. This involves carefully climbing the tree (or using a Mobile Elevated Work Platform/crane if the tree is unsafe to climb or difficult to access). We start by removing branches individually. Then, the trunk is cut into manageable sections, which are either safely dropped to the ground or, if necessary, carefully lowered using ropes and specialised rigging techniques.

Once on the ground, all branches and trunk sections are processed. Typically, they are fed into a wood chipper to produce mulch, which can be reused in gardens, sent to a green waste recycling facility for biomass use.

Stump Grinding

Stump grinding is the most effective and efficient method for removing an unwanted tree stump. After a tree has been felled, the stump remains in the ground. Our specialised stump grinding machine uses a rotating cutting head with sharp teeth to systematically grind the stump down into small wood chips, typically several inches below ground level. This process effectively eliminates the visible stump and most of its root plate, allowing you to reclaim the space for new planting, landscaping, or construction. The resulting wood chippings can then be removed or used as mulch.