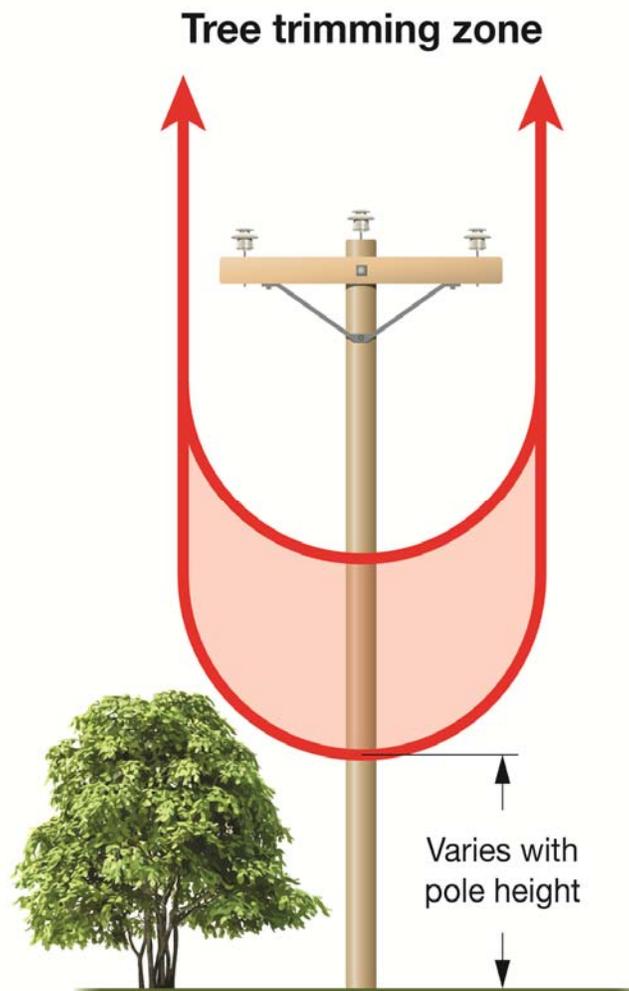


## Why does Hydro Ottawa trim trees?

Many of Ottawa's trees are close to the city's power line corridors. When trees are close enough to potentially contact overhead power lines, public safety and the uninterrupted supply of electricity can be compromised. Hydro Ottawa has a responsibility to ensure its electricity system is safe and that it operates reliably. We must also ensure that our equipment can withstand extreme weather events such as high winds and heavy snowfall and ice.

The following illustration depicts the tree trimming zone:



## Who's responsible for tree trimming?

In order to balance the benefits of a healthy tree canopy with the needs for public safety and electricity supply reliability, Hydro Ottawa conducts a Tree Trimming Program throughout the year. Tree trimming is a full-time activity for Hydro Ottawa.

As a property owner, you are responsible for keeping the service wires on your property clear of vegetation and tree foliage. If the tree or plant on your property is:

- In contact with or near (within three meters) an overhead power line: Do not attempt to trim it yourself. Contact Hydro Ottawa.
- Near a power line (more than 3 meters): You can perform your own pruning as long as you keep yourself, your equipment and all parts of the tree at least three metres away from the power line. If you can't or are unsure, contact a professional who is licensed to work on trees around power lines.

If you require maintenance on trees that reside on city-owned property, call 3-1-1.

## When and how will Hydro Ottawa contact me if they plan to trim a tree on my property?

Hydro Ottawa operates a tree trimming program throughout the year. We strive to provide customers with advance notice of tree trimming happening on their property or in their neighbourhood. Should an emergency or hazardous situation arise, advance notification isn't always possible.

Information is provided in the form of a hand-delivered letter or door knocker to the customer's home. Customers will also receive notification if a planned power outage is required. Please note that advance notification of a power interruption is not always possible during an emergency or hazardous situation.

## What will my tree look like after the trim?

Our experts evaluate the landscape around the electrical equipment and the natural structure of the tree before any work begins. The individual characteristics of each tree are also taken into consideration. Every effort will be made to minimize the impact to the trees, however, we must achieve required clearance objectives. Directional trimming is used to encourage growth away from conductors – see “V” trim and “C” trim illustrations on the following page.

### Trimming around distribution lines - "V" Trim

Before

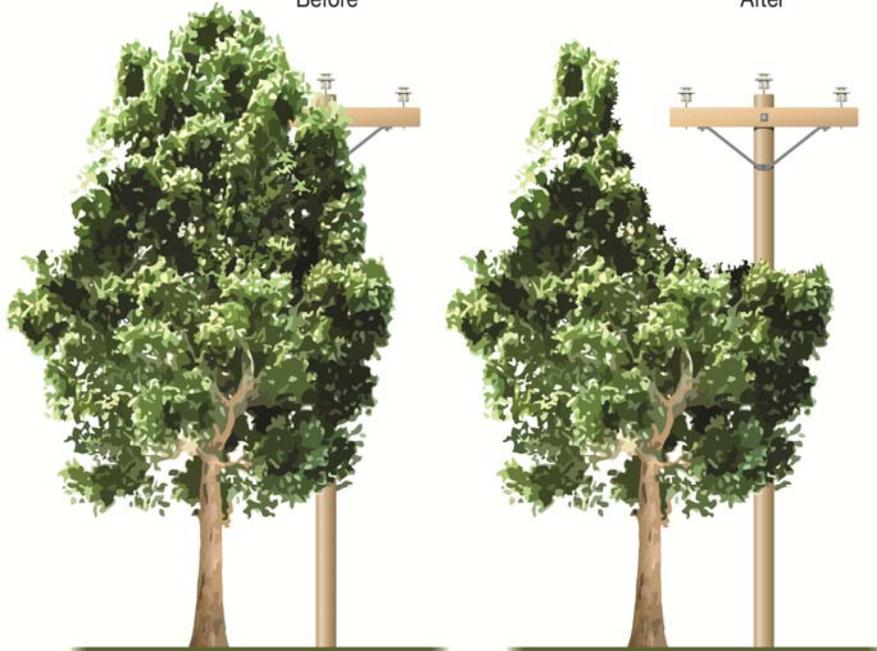
After



### Trimming around distribution lines - "C" Trim

Before

After



## What does storm hardening mean?

Storm hardening focuses primarily on trees or branches overhanging overhead power lines.

Tree contact with overhead power lines can cause fires, equipment damage or cause power outages. These events may occur as a result of a fallen branch or tree, a wind storm or due to excess weight (such as snow and ice) on the branches.

## Will I be charged any fees for this service?

Customers will not be charged for any tree trimming that is performed by Hydro Ottawa. Customers are responsible for any costs associated with the removal or pruning of trees on their property that does not involve Hydro Ottawa. If the tree resides on city-owned property, customers should call 3-1-1.

## How much will be cut from my trees?

All crews involved in the Tree Trimming Program follow industry best practices, receive extensive training in proper line clearing techniques, and are regularly updated on electrical awareness. Our tree trimming crews are trained in proper pruning techniques and do their best to redirect growth away from the power lines while attempting to protect the health of the tree.

Directional trimming is a common tree trimming method as it encourages growth away from conductors – see “V” trim and “C” trim illustrations on the following page.

### Trimming around distribution lines – “V” Trim

Before

After



### Trimming around distribution lines – “C” Trim

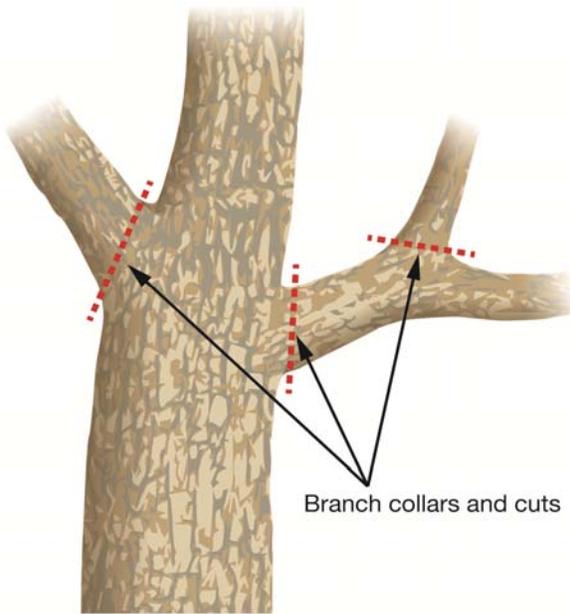
Before

After



Our crews adhere to the same professional standards as other arborists and follow similar tree trimming cuts:

### Tree Trimming Cuts



These experts make every attempt to trim sufficient clearance to reduce electricity risk to the public and support reliability, however, each tree is different.