

Special Conditions for Cutting, Trimming, and/or Removal of Vegetation

These special conditions apply to cutting, trimming and/or removal of vegetation within Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) Right-of-Way. Requirements for cutting are site specific and may require additional conditions or constraints.

1. All vegetation cutting/removal/trimming shall be performed with hand held equipment such as chainsaws, handsaws, hand pruners, and pole pruners. All stumps shall be cut flush with the ground. All cutting and trimming shall be performed under the direction of a certified arborist in accordance with International Society of Arboriculture Standards.
2. Use of any heavy duty equipment, including skid-steers with cutting or mowing attachments, is prohibited. The use of walk behind brush cutters may be approved if MDOT determines site conditions, height of billboard, and vegetative species warrants their use.
3. Use of light-weight equipment, for removal of large limbs and trunks, may be permitted. If light-weight equipment is permitted, a minimal ground disturbance is required, and the disturbed area shall be fully restored according to MDOT specifications.
4. Broadcast chipping of woody debris is permitted under the following conditions, unless specifically prohibited by MDOT.
 - a) The chipped material shall be spread uniformly so that the maximum depth of wood chips, at any one point, does not exceed 2 inches.
 - b) Broadcasting wood chips is prohibited in the following areas:
 - a. Roadside ditches,
 - b. Within 50 feet of a stream, river, wetland, or drainage structure,
 - c. Slopes greater than 1 on 3,
 - d. Mowed areas.
 - c) All other vegetation, that is not chipped, shall be removed.
 - d) The broadcasting of wood chips produced outside of the Right-of-Way into the Right-of-Way is prohibited.
5. When chipping is prohibited, all wood and debris, resulting from the cutting or trimming, shall be removed from the MDOT right-of-way and disposed of according to local and state regulations. Wood chips produced from outside of the MDOT right-of-way are not allowed in the right-of-way.
6. Written permission, from an adjacent landowner, shall be obtained prior to the disposal of any vegetation on the property. A copy of all written permissions shall be provided to MDOT prior to cutting, trimming and/or removal of vegetation.

7. The Right-of-Way fence shall be free of debris, to allow MDOT access to, and maintenance of, the fence. All debris, piled on or leaning on either side of the fence, shall be removed.
8. Removal or altering the Right-of-Way fence, in any way, is prohibited. Any damage to the Right-of-Way fence, caused by activities associated with the cutting, trimming and/or removal of vegetation, shall be repaired according to MDOT specifications.
9. Access to properties adjacent to limited access highways shall only be made from outside of the Right-of-Way. If this is not possible, the work shall proceed according to applicable MDOT traffic control requirements and standards. If the Right-of-Way is classified as "free access", direct access to the adjacent property from the Right-of-Way is permitted.
10. Upon completion of the work, all equipment shall be immediately removed. Any material or debris not removed within 15 days of the cutting or trimming operation is subject to removal by MDOT and the removal cost may be charged to the permit applicant.
11. Manual spot treatment of cut tree stumps may be permitted at the discretion of MDOT with an MDOT approved herbicide. Broadcast, foliar, hack-and-squirt, and basal bark treatment applications are prohibited. Herbicide requirements are:
 - a) Only specified herbicides shall be approved for use,
 - b) Herbicides shall be registered and approved for sale by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for use in the State Michigan,
 - c) Herbicides shall be applied by a Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) certified herbicide applicator,
 - d) The certified herbicide applicator shall be certified in category (6) Right-of-Way.
 - e) All right-of-way herbicide applications shall be performed in accordance to Public Act 451 of 1994, Regulation 285.637 and according to the herbicide's label.
 - f) Copies of the spray logs shall be sent to the MDOT Transportation Service Center, which issued the permit, within 2 weeks after the herbicide application was made.
12. Trees infested with the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) shall be disposed of according to the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development guidelines. Trees tagged with an EAB tag shall be removed and the tag shall be sent to the MDOT Transportation Service Center, which issued the permit.
13. The permitted work shall be completed within 30 days from the date when the advance notice is approved.