

## ***Do You Need a permit to Remove a tree in Florida?***

***It's important to note that homeowners still don't have free-range to its fullest extent.***

***Under the new legislation, homeowners must obtain a document issued by a certified arborist in order to legally remove a tree from their property.. For the document to stand it must be certified by the International Society of Arboriculture. Alternatively, they can be a landscape architect licensed in Florida.***

***Homeowners need a suitable reason for cutting down a tree. The document issued by the expert must state that the tree is hazardous and be supported by an appropriate risk assessment. If a tree poses a threat to people or property, the professional must declare as much and give permission for it to be removed.***

***"A permit is still required to remove healthy trees that pose no threat"***

### **Florida Bill # 1555-s163.045,FF**

***The law prohibits a local government from requiring notice, approval, application, permit fee, or mitigation for the pruning, trimming, or removal of a tree when a residential property owner obtains documentation from a "certified arborist or a Florida-licensed landscape architect" stating that the tree presents a danger to persons or property.***

***The bill amends s.163.045,FS.***

***Under the bill, a tree poses an "an acceptable risk if removal is the only means of practically mitigation the risk below "moderate", as defined by the tree risk assessment procedures in Best Management Practices.***

***The definition of "documentation" requires that an on-site assessment be made in a certain manner by a specified type of certified arborist or architect.***