Tree Removal Permits: Charleston, SC Cheat Sheet

Last checked October 13, 2026. Sizes are trunk diameter 4.5 ft above ground (DBH). General information, not legal advice: confirm with the town before cutting.

Where	What is protected	Single-family lot
City of Charleston	Grand tree 24 in. or more (not pine or sweetgum); protected 8 in. or more	No permit under 24 in. (city page); grand trees need one
Unincorporated Charleston County	Grand tree 24 in. or more (not pine or sweet gum)	Exempt, except grand tree rules
Mount Pleasant	8 in. or more; 16 in. or more on single-family and townhouse lots	Permit for protected trees; several species exempt
North Charleston	Healthy trees 10 in. or more	Permit first, on all sites; the contractor applies
Summerville	8 in. or more, any species except invasives	Permit first; $10 fee
Goose Creek	Protected 8 in. or more; grand 24 in. or more (not sweet gum)	Unclear: call Planning and Zoning
Hanahan	8 in. or more, all species	Exempt from replanting, but a permit is still needed in several cases
Moncks Corner	10 in. or more; flowering trees 2 in. or more	No special exemption found
Town of James Island	Grand tree 18 in. or more (not pine or sweet gum)	Exempt, except grand tree rules
Folly Beach	Live oak 6 in. or more; other listed species 12 in. or more	Permit before removal
Isle of Palms	8 in. or more, including palms (not pines)	Permit before removal
Sullivan’s Island	6 in. or more; palmettos protected	Permit before removal
Kiawah Island	Specimen trees (24 in. or live oak 16 in.); protected 8 in. or more	Specimen trees still need approval
Seabrook Island	24 in. or more	Permit for 24 in. or more; SIPOA approval first

Who to call

- **City of Charleston:** Citizen Services 843-724-7311 · citizenservices@charleston-sc.gov
- **Charleston County:** Zoning and Planning · planning@charlestoncounty.org
- **Mount Pleasant:** trees@tompsc.com · (843) 884-1229
- **North Charleston:** Zoning 843-740-2581 or 2582
- **Summerville:** jcarpenter@summervillesc.gov · 843-871-6000
- **Goose Creek:** Planning and Zoning (843) 797-6220 ext. 1114
- **Town of James Island:** (843) 795-4141
- **Folly Beach:** permits@follybeach.gov · 843-588-2447
- **Isle of Palms:** Building Department 843-886-9912
- **Seabrook Island:** (843) 768-9121

Full guide with fees, penalties, dead and hazardous trees and official sources: charlestontreeservicesc.com/guides/tree-removal-permit-charleston-sc

By Marcelo Carvalho, civil engineer · Charleston SC Tree Service, a referral service · Corrections: contact@charlestontreeservicesc.com