

Tree and powerline safety

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Keep trees and powerlines apart

It is your responsibility to ensure that the branches of any trees on your property are kept a safe distance from powerlines. When trees or branches come into contact with powerlines, it can cause power failures, bush fires and serious accidents. Powerlines that have been downed by storms, and trees that become 'live' when wires touch their branches, are also a very serious public safety risk. Making sure that trees and powerlines are a safe distance apart is in your best interest, and also the best interest of your entire community.

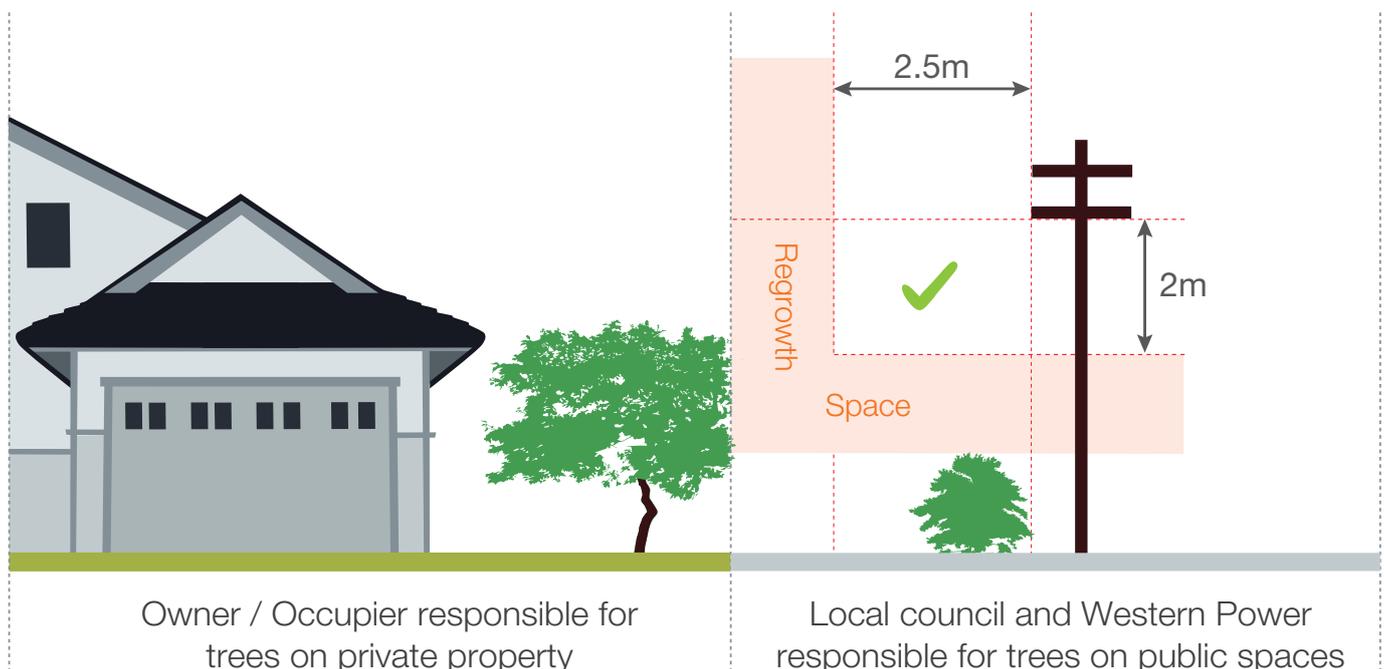
What is the safe distance?

The minimum recommended safe clearance area between trees and powerlines is 2.5 metres for metro areas and 4 metres in rural areas, although this distance may vary according to your area and the distance between power poles.

Please refer to the Western Power website for specific clearance requirements for your area. This distance has been chosen because it can prevent trees and powerlines from coming into contact with each other, especially during adverse weather. This distance also means that people do not have to risk their own personal safety by trimming close to the powerlines.

Important to remember

- ✓ 2.5 metres is the minimum recommended safe distance between most trees and powerlines in metro areas
- ✓ Trees growing close to powerlines on your property are your responsibility
- ✓ Always hire a professional to prune your trees when they are growing too close to powerlines



Which trees am I responsible for?

Home owners and occupiers are responsible for ensuring trees on their property stay clear of powerlines all year round. Tenants are responsible for maintaining trees on the property, however they should check to see if tree maintenance is covered in their rental agreement.

Local councils and Western Power are responsible for the control of any trees or vegetation beyond the boundaries of private property, including street verges. If you are concerned about the distance between a tree and an overhead powerline in your area, please contact your local council or Western Power on 13 10 87.



Use a professional tree arborist

It is highly recommended that you use a professional tree arborist to prune branches that are on larger trees or within the clearance zone of a powerline. Tree work operations (arboriculture) require a high degree of technical competence backed by training and experience, and it should only be undertaken by professional arborists.

Tree operations performed by unqualified arborists can result in:

- Injury to people
- Damage to property
- Permanent damage to your tree

A professional arborist knows how to work safely near powerlines, plus they can save you money by pruning your trees to reduce future growth near the powerlines. To find a qualified arborist in your area, visit the Tree Guild of WA's website at: treeguildwa.asn.au

What to do if you are issued a notice from Western Power.

As part of our commitment to public safety we regularly inspect vegetation close to powerlines across our entire network. If trees on your property are growing too close to powerlines, we will issue you with a notice to have these trees pruned. This process is outlined below.

- 1 A notice is issued providing 40 days to trim trees and shrubs that are near powerlines within the boundaries of the property.
- 2 If the trees have not been pruned back to the advised distance, a 'default cut' may occur (through our contractors).
- 3 An invoice will be issued for the cost of the default cut. This will often cost you significantly more than hiring a qualified arborist.



Think before you plant.

By selecting appropriate plants for your property, you can reduce the need for pruning and save yourself both time and money. You should avoid planting next to powerlines, or ensure that it is a species that only grows to a maximum of three metres tall. And as general rule, if you live in an urban area you should only plant species that grow to a maximum of four metres.

Visit the Western Power website to find a list of plants which are more suitable for growth in areas served by overhead powerlines. Your local nursery can also help you choose the perfect plant for your environment.

