

Tree Debris Recycling

Tree trimmers or governmental entities wishing to employ recycling may take tree debris to a site they own or have access to, provided:

DOs:

- Comply with the site selection criteria below.
- Chip tree debris within 90 days of bringing it to the site.
- Cut up larger trunks for fire wood within 90 days of bringing them to the site.
- Have approval by the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation if tree debris piles will be left for wildlife habitat.
- Have a legal access agreement if trimmer or governmental entity does not own the property.
- Have approval of the city or town if the site is inside the corporate limits of a city or town.
- Use or dispose of woodchips within one year of chipping.

DON'Ts:

- Burn any waste including trees, limbs or yard clippings.
- Bury any waste including trees, limbs or yard clippings.
- Leave large piles of tree debris or woodchips in a floodway or near a waterway.
- Leave large piles of unchipped tree debris near residences or near roadways such that it would cause a nuisance or become an attractive nuisance for other types of waste or create a fire hazard.
- Pile grass clippings on the site.
- Compost yard waste without a DEQ approved plan.
- Bring any waste other than tree debris to the site

Site selection: The site shall be:

- In a remote area at least 50 feet from a property line, 100 feet from a roadway and 500 feet from a residence that is not the tree trimmer's residence.
- Fenced to control access.
- Out of floodways and waterways.

Special Considerations:

If at any time waste other than tree debris is brought to the site, it shall be removed immediately and disposed of properly.

People who operate a tree debris recycling site are not exempt or excused from the consequences, damages, or injuries that may result from operating such site, nor are they exempt or excused from complying with all applicable laws, ordinances, rules, and orders.

If DEQ determines that a tree debris recycling operation is creating a public nuisance or violating state law, then DEQ may bring enforcement action against the responsible parties.

