



HUME CITY COUNCIL **WORKING AROUND COUNCIL TREES**

Excavation around trees can affect a tree's health, but more importantly it can affect its structural stability.

Digging too close to a tree and severing its roots is an OHS Risk. Without its structural roots a tree could fail, which may lead to major property damage, or even personal injury.

**So before you excavate – STOP!
and think of the consequences!**

RED ZONE

If any excavation is required in the **Red Zone STOP!** and contact Council's Arborist for an inspection. If a small tree has a red zone of less than 2.5m please contact Council's Arborist for advice.

GREEN ZONE

Excavation in the **Green Zone** is **OK** to proceed. If you come across roots less than 50mm in diameter you may prune them with a sharp saw. If you come across roots greater than 50mm, please contact Council's Arborist for advice.

Council Arborist contact numbers over page.



For more information
www.hume.vic.gov.au





Example of Normal Tree Root Distribution down to an average depth of 600mm below ground level. (Note the lack of a single tap root as is commonly associated with trees.)

FURTHER INFORMATION AND CONTACT DETAILS

Protecting Council Assets

Just like all essential services, such as water, power, gas and telecommunications, council trees are an important community asset. But unlike those other assets, trees are living things that cannot be easily repaired once damaged, so it's important that we protect them and prevent any possible damage before it occurs.

Tree Protection Zones

Most Victorian councils have adopted the Australian Standard AS 4970 2009 'Protection of Trees on Development Sites'. Based on this the Tree Protection Zone (TPZ) is calculated as an area around the tree equivalent to a circle with a radius 12 x the diameter of the tree's trunk at a height of 1.4 metres from the ground. In some circumstances the TPZ may vary in shape to take into consideration individual site factors

For most trees, excavation outside the drip-line (the outer tips of the branches) will have a minimal impact on the tree's health, however for tall narrow trees, 12 x DBH is the most accurate method; for multiple-stemmed trees the trunk can be measured lower down, below the first branches, if possible. If roots that are larger than 50 mm in diameter are found then these should be preserved also.

Excavation – The damage it can cause

Excavation around a tree, and severance of its roots, will always have an effect on tree health. This may not be immediately noticeable as some trees can take months, or even years to show the ill-effects of root damage. Severance of a tree's structural roots (larger roots closer to the trunk) which hold it in the ground will compromise its structural stability and is a serious OHS Risk. Without its structural roots a tree could fail, which may lead to major property damage, or even death!



For more information,

contact Council:

 **9205 2200**

 **contactus@hume.vic.gov.au**