

STAY ON THE RIGHT SIDE OF THE “RIGHT OF WAY”

Power lines need a safe path from our generation sites to homes and businesses. This is called the power line right of way.

Overhead and underground lines, poles and other equipment are all within this right of way, which often runs along public property, like a parking strip. Sometimes, it goes over private property. In these cases, the right of way is covered by an easement, a type of real estate agreement that gives us access to work on lines and equipment.

Oregon law allows our crews to access private property so we can trim trees or work on equipment in the right of way. If we need to enter your property, we will notify you in advance, except in the case of an emergency. We might ask you to move vehicles, unlock gates or secure pets.

Tip: If you’re installing a structure, like a patio cover, garden shed or hot tub, make sure it’s safely outside the power line right of way and not blocking access to any related equipment. Also, don’t plant vines that will grow on poles or anchors or into power lines.

Learn more at portlandgeneral.com/rightofway.

WE COULD GO ON...

If you have questions about tree safety or maintenance, we have answers.

PGE VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

For more information about safety, maintenance and planting lists, go to portlandgeneral.com/trees or call the PGE Vegetation Management team at **503-736-5460**.

BEFORE YOU DIG

Call **811** before you dig

EMERGENCIES

Call **911** in case of an emergency

CUSTOMER SERVICE

Get help or report an outage or downed line at **503-228-6322**

PROPERTY SERVICES

503-464-2288
or portlandgeneral.com/rightofway



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Power lines and vegetation

Here’s how you can help ensure safe, reliable power in your neighborhood when it comes to trees and other vegetation.



HEALTHY TREES ARE PART OF HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

We love trees — we are Oregonians, after all! Healthy trees, shrubs and other plants are part of green infrastructure, which helps clean our air, beautify our neighborhoods, shade our homes and provide wildlife habitat.

To keep everyone safe, we need to keep trees and other vegetation away from power lines. Trees growing too close to power lines can trigger power outages or pose safety and fire risks.

Our contract tree crews are carefully trained to work near power lines, clearing away branches and vegetation so we can do maintenance work and equipment upgrades. Tree crews will visit your area every two to three years to inspect and prune trees along power line right of ways. Sometimes, we need to remove a tree before it becomes a hazard to the power line. We don’t make these decisions lightly, which is why we have arborists and forestry staff to guide us.

Choosing the right tree for the right place is the first step in making sure your tree can grow naturally to a mature size while your electricity stays reliable and safe. Read on to learn how.



Right tree, right place

Before you plant a tree or shrub or build any structure on your property, be sure it won't get in the way of electrical equipment. Here are some guidelines to follow.

POWER LINES

Plant only low-growing trees near power lines. See the illustration for specific height requirements. Remember to place structures, like garden sheds and fences, outside the power line right of way.

Transmission lines are larger, high-voltage power lines and aren't as common. If a transmission line runs on or near your property, you'll need to take special care. Avoid planting directly under these lines, and don't plant anything within 30 feet of transmission towers, poles or ground-based structures.

UNDERGROUND POWER

If you have a transformer on your property, it's important to maintain safety clearances on all sides. There are two types of transformers: pad-mounted (a locked cabinet on a concrete pad) and vault (an underground concrete enclosure).

The front, sides and back of this equipment should be clear of plants, large tree roots and fences (see the illustration).



Help us work safely by keeping a clearance of 10 feet from the front of the equipment and 3 feet on all other sides.

PUT YOUR SAFETY FIRST

- Look up! Watch for overhead power lines when moving ladders or tools.
- Call 811 before you dig to have underground utilities marked. Call at least two business days prior to digging.
- Call PGE Vegetation Management at **503-736-5460** before trimming or removing trees near power lines.
- Tree branches conduct electricity! Keep kids away from trees that are near power lines.

CURIOS ABOUT WHAT TO PLANT?

Learn more about clearances for overhead and underground power and find a list of PGE-recommended trees and plants at portlandgeneral.com/righttree.



UNDER DISTRIBUTION POWER LINES

Distribution lines are primarily near roads and sidewalks, and sometimes backyards. Stick with small trees with a maximum mature height of 20-30 feet.

FRONT OR SIDE YARD (SOMETIMES BACKYARD)

This is usually where the power line drops from the pole into your building. Choose small to medium trees, depending on the size of your yard. Medium-sized trees (30-50 feet) require large, private lawn areas.

BACKYARD

Any size tree is okay, as long as there are no overhead lines. However, consider the size of your yard. Large trees (50+ feet) require a large yard.

NEAR TRANSMISSION LINES

If there's a high-voltage transmission line on or near your property, the tree should be no more than 15 feet tall and at least 30 feet away.