



LEARNING CENTER

CROWN THINNING PRUNING

What is crown thinning pruning?

Crown thinning is the selective removal of live branches to reduce crown density.

Why would your ISA Certified Arborist recommend crown thinning?

- Thinning allows wind to pass through or into the pruned section of the crown, which can temporarily improve durability in a storm.
- Increased sunlight to the ground.
- Reduces mechanical stress on selected limbs from gravity, wind, ice and snow.
- Reduces mechanical stress on selected limbs with cracks, cavities, hollows, and on co-dominate, overextended or long branches.

Crown Thinning Done Wrong

Unfortunately, many people prune when it is not necessary, or they misapply or misunderstand thinning, and subscribe to the practice of only removing branches from the interior of the crown. This is often referred to as lions-tailing, overlifting, overthinning, stripping out the interior, or cleaning out. Little or nothing is removed from the ends of the limbs, and this is a mistake. The best crown thinning technique to start with is actually structural pruning.



BAD CROWN



GOOD CROWN