STEP 1: CHOOSING THE IDEAL PLACE FOR YOUR NEW TREE

Right Tree, Right Place

Planting large trees too close to overhead utilities can cause outages and fires.

- **Small Trees**
  - Up to 20 feet tall
  - Plant at least 5 feet from pole

- **Medium Trees**
  - 20-40 feet tall
  - Plant at least 20 feet from pole

- **Large Trees**
  - 40+ feet tall
  - Plant at least 50 feet from pole

**PRO TIP:** TO COOL YOUR HOUSE AND LOWER YOUR UTILITY BILLS, PLANT YOUR TREE ON THE WEST OR SOUTH SIDE OF YOUR HOUSE!
STEP 2: DIGGING A HOLE FOR YOUR NEW TREE

Dig a shallow, wide planting hole. It should be 2–3 times wider than the root ball, but only as deep as the root ball. The root flare should be visible after backfilling the hole.

The root flare is where the trunk expands at the tree’s base just before the roots begin. You might have to remove soil from around the trunk to find it.

Lay the tree down and slide it out of its container. Take a look at the root ball and find the root flare before you dig your hole to ensure proper planting depth.

Caution: If the tree is planted too deep, new roots will have difficulty developing due to a lack of oxygen.
Preparing the Root Ball & Filling the Hole

Step 3:

Inspect the root ball for circling roots. Don’t be afraid to handle the root ball! Straighten circling roots or cut them off.

Cut them before planting to ensure they don’t strangle your tree over time.

Straighten the tree in the hole and then backfill with the original soil. Pack the soil around the tree as you fill the hole. Don’t fertilize or add compost to the hole while planting!

Watering as you fill the hole also helps eliminate air pockets!

Pro Tip: You can use any extra soil to build a dam around your tree. A dam will help hold water, allowing it to soak down into the roots.
STEP 4: HOW TO MULCH YOUR NEW TREE

THE RIGHT WAY TO MULCH

Spread 3 inches of mulch around your tree, keeping mulch away from the tree trunk.

THE WRONG WAY TO MULCH

No mulch volcanoes! Keep mulch away from the trunk of the tree to avoid decay.

REMINDER: REMEMBER TO EXPOSE THE ROOT FLARE FOR A HAPPILY MULCHED TREE!
Watering Your New Tree

Step 5: Watering Your New Tree

Water your tree when you plant it, and regularly for the next 3 years.

Newly planted trees, even native and drought tolerant ones, need 15-20 gallons of water every 7-10 days.

Short on time? Set your garden hose on low flow for 15 minutes at the base of your tree for slow and deep watering.

Pro Tip: Want to spend some quality time with your tree? Hand water while you monitor your tree for disease and insects and get to know it better.