

Forest Conservation By-law: Process Overview

This overview is provided for general informational purposes only and is not intended to serve as legal advice or a substitute for the official by-law. For complete details, requirements, and legal obligations, please refer to by-law 2025-030. In the event of any discrepancies, the official by-law shall prevail.

Step 1

+ Determine if the By-law Applies

Check if your property contains a wooded area that is 1 hectare (2.5 acres) or larger.

Confirm if the woodland contains enough trees to meet one of the following thresholds:

- 1,000 trees of any size
- 750 trees over 5 cm in diameter
- 500 trees over 12 cm in diameter
- 250 trees over 20 cm in diameter

If both conditions (size and tree count) are met, the by-law applies.

Step 2

+ Plan Your Activity

Consider whether you intend to cut, injure, or destroy trees on your property. This includes activities like harvesting wood, clearing land, or removing individual trees.

Step 3

+ Choose the Right Permit Application

Determine the type of work you're planning and select the appropriate application form from the Bruce County website:

- **Schedule B - Good Forestry Practices Permit**
For harvesting based on a forestry prescription.
- **Schedule C - Circumference Limit Cutting Permit**
For cutting trees based on size thresholds.
- **Schedule D - Special Permit**
For tree removal not covered by Schedules B or C.
- **Schedule E - Minor Exemption Permit**
For small-scale removals that meet exemption criteria.

Step 4

+ Submit Your Application

Complete the permit application fully.

Submit it to Bruce County's Transportation and Environmental Services Department before you plan to start any work.

No tree injury or destruction shall commence until a Permit has been issued by the Officer.

Step 5

+ Wait for Permit Approval

The County will review your application to ensure it meets all requirements.

If approved, you will be issued a permit valid for one year.

Step 6

+ Follow Permit Conditions

You must follow any conditions included in the permit. These may include:

- Using Good Forestry Practices
- Marking trees before cutting
- Avoiding sensitive natural areas
- Completing work in phases with inspections

Step 7

+ Complete the Work

Once your permit is issued and conditions are clear, you may begin the work as approved.

+ Renew or Reapply if Needed

Step 8

If the work is not completed within one year, you must renew or reapply for the permit before it expires.



Be an explorer.