

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.

+ 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 2

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 A - Circumference Limit Cutting Permit**
For harvesting trees above minimum size limits.
- **Schedule C - Good Forestry Practices Permit**
For harvesting based on a forestry prescription.
- **Schedule D - Circumference Harvest Permit**
For harvesting woodlands using size-based standards.
- **Schedule E - Eastern White Cedar (EWC) Permit**
For harvesting EWC under permit conditions.

+ Submit Your Application

Step 4

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.

+ Follow Permit Conditions

Step 6

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.