



PERMITS:

ACTIVITIES NOT COVERED
UNDER ANY OF THE
EXEMPTIONS

*If **any** of the proposed activities on any parcel of land do not fall within the exemption categories listed in this brochure, then the applicant will need a **vegetation removal permit**. Permits often require some type of mitigation to offset the impacts authorized by the permit, and they cost more than the exemptions. Mitigation can be in the form of preservation of trees on the site that are to be impacted, planting on-site, the purchase and delivery of trees to the County nursery, the planting of trees on County property, or payment to the County for the number of inches of trees removed that exceeded the threshold identified in the Land Development Code. The Code can be viewed at: https://library.municode.com/fl/st_lucie_county/codes/land_development_code*

The information contained in this brochure is accurate to date. However, proposed rule changes that may occur this year will affect some of the permitting and exemption requirements. Please contact the ERD for the most current regulations regarding land clearing in St. Lucie County. For more information, please contact...

St. Lucie County

Environmental Resources Department

2300 Virginia Avenue

Ft. Pierce, FL 34982

Phone: 772-462-2526

Fax: 772-462-1684

Email:

EnvironmentalResources@stlucieco.org



VEGETATION PROTECTION REGULATIONS OF ST. LUCIE COUNTY



*Presented to you by
the St. Lucie County
Environmental
Regulations Division*





The most important thing for contractors to know, is that **ALL NATIVE VEGETATION IN THE UNINCORPORATED PORTIONS OF ST. LUCIE COUNTY ARE PROTECTED!** Second, the removal of **ANY VEGETATION** in unincorporated St. Lucie County, **native or exotic**, requires some form of authorization from the Environmental Resources Department (ERD). This authorization will be either an **exemption** or a **permit**, the requirements of which are spelled out in Chapter 6 of the St. Lucie County Land Development Code. The reason for these regulations originated from the Board of County Commissioners to maintain as much of our native landscape/trees as possible without infringing on the rights of property owners. Our mission is simply to preserve, enhance, and protect our native vegetation and the natural resources they support. St. Lucie County has some of the most diverse habitats found in the United States. We depend on these ecosystems to support the health and quality of life for our citizens.

EXEMPTIONS

Vegetation removal for surveys \$55.00

The removal of vegetation for a 4' wide path for foot access by registered surveyors or engineers to conduct surveys or site examinations for the preparation of bona fide site development plans or vegetation inventories. Also, this exemption is for the above mentioned individuals to conduct soil bore tests or soil percolation tests provided that the path cut is no wider than 10' to allow equipment and vehicle access

*** Utility easements or Right-of-Ways** \$55.00

For removal of vegetation by a utility company or government entity within their platted easement or right-of-way for the purpose of providing or maintaining service.

Damaged or Destroyed Vegetation \$55.00

This exemption applies to trees that have been damaged or destroyed beyond saving by natural causes or causes not otherwise covered by other sections of chapter 6, or which constitutes an immediate peril to life, property, or other trees. This exemption does not cover the POTENTIAL for a tree to damage property in the case of a hurricane or other unforeseen disaster.

Property Less Than 1 Acre \$55.00

This exemption is the most commonly issued. It is for the removal of native vegetation less than 24" in diameter at breast height (DBH) upon any detached single family residential lot or parcel of land having an area of one acre or less. County landscaping requirements still apply.

EXEMPTIONS

*** Non-native vegetation removal** \$55.00

This exemption applies to the removal of any exotic species.

*** The fee will be waived for removal of exotics for single family home owner or POA. ***

*** No vegetation to be removed.** \$55.00

For construction associated with areas that are not vegetated or where no vegetation is to be impacted

NO NOTICE REQUIRED

THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES DO NOT REQUIRE THE APPLICATION OF A "NOTICE OF VEGETATION REMOVAL." HOWEVER, ONE MAY BE REQUIRED FOR BUILDING PERMIT APPROVAL OR OTHER SUCH AUTHORIZATIONS.

-Preserve and Parks Management Activities. Vegetation removal activities associated with an adopted management plan for government maintained parks, recreation areas, wildlife management areas, conservation and preserve areas. The purpose of the vegetation removal activity shall be to protect and preserve the natural values and functions of the ecological communities present, such as: clearing for firebreaks, conducting prescribed burns, or construction of fences.

-Routine landscape maintenance. Trimming or pruning of vegetation which is not intended to result in the eventual death of the vegetation, mowing of yard or lawns, or any landscaping or gardening activity which is commonly recognized as routine maintenance, replacement or re-landscaping.

-Existing agricultural operations. Vegetation removal associated with subsequent agricultural on parcels with Bone fide Ag exemptions issued by the SLC Property Appraiser activities, except within required preserve areas or deeded conservation easements, which are part of the on-going activities of the existing operation shall not require a permit. Initial clearing of a site is not an exempt activity.