

Protect your investment!

How to properly mulch your street tree

The right way:

The recommended mulching depth is 1 to 3 inches.

Mulch out to the tree's drip line or beyond.

Place mulch several inches away from the trunk so that the flare of the trunk is exposed. Avoid placing mulch against the trunk of the tree.

If mulch is already present, check the depth. Do not add mulch if there is a sufficient layer in place. Rake the old mulch and remove or aerate it to give the mulch a fresh appearance.

Organic mulches such as hardwood bark and compost are usually preferred to inorganic materials such as decorative stone because of their soil-enhancing properties.



The payback:

- Conserves moisture.
- Adds nutrients.
- Reduces competition from weeds and grasses.
- Reduces soil erosion.
- Improves soil structure.
- Serves as an insulation blanket during temperature extremes.
- Reduces damage caused by string trimmers.

The wrong way:

As beneficial as mulch is, too much mulch can be harmful.

Unfortunately, the practice of over mulching is getting more and more common. You can help stop over mulching by learning about how to properly mulch a tree.

Never practice “volcano mulching.” That happens when mulch is piled up against the tree. Adding new mulch each year, often for the sake of refreshing the color, creates a build-up to depths that can be unhealthy for the tree. Cypress mulch for example, takes several years to decompose and does not need to be replenished annually.

Mulch piled up against the tree often leads to surface root development and can create an environment for decay organisms and rodents.

