



### **1.0 General**

Debris from tree or shrub trimming operations smaller than four inches in diameter should be disposed of promptly. Chipping, hauling away, and natural decomposition in place are the preferred methods of disposal.

### **2.0 Chipping**

Chipping is the most desirable method of debris disposal. Wood chips should be uniformly spread over a large area so no pile will be created or they may be stockpiled for future use as mulch around landscape plantings. Stockpile wood chips and allow them to age for six months to a year before being used as mulch. Raw wood chips tend to draw nitrogen from the soil which may affect plant vigor.

Chipping is an acceptable method of disposing of trees or shrubs that are infested with pests such as the emerald ash borer. Chips must be no more than 1-inch in their longest dimension. For more information see [The Detailed Guide to Wisconsin's Regulations on Transport, Utilization and Disposal of Ash Wood](#).

### **3.0 Hauling**

Hauling to a disposal site is acceptable if the cost is reasonable and there are no restrictions imposed due to pests or diseases.

### **4.0 Natural Decomposition**

Natural decomposition should be allowed in wooded areas as follows:

1. Twigs, branches and trunks too large or small to be convenient firewood or of poor quality or small in quantity may be left in the wooded area.
2. Materials should be trimmed and laid flush on the ground so they are not visible from the roadway.
3. Unsightly materials remaining visible from the roadway should be removed from the right of way and disposed of properly as in the sections above.

### **5.0 Burning**

Burning is the least desirable method of debris disposal but is permissible. All of the following regulations apply to any burning done for debris disposal:

1. Burn only if local or regional fire ordinances allow it.
2. Do not burn near houses or other buildings.
3. The debris to be burned should be less than four inches in diameter, though larger debris may be burned in remote locations screened from the roadway.
4. Proper traffic signage shall be in place on the roadway and workers shall be available for flagging if there is potential for smoke to obstruct motorists' visibility.
5. The fire should be downwind from the roadway and at least 30 feet away from the roadway edge.
6. A working attendant shall be close enough to view the fire.
7. Totally extinguish the fire before workers leave the site.

### **6.0 Firewood**

HMM 07-10-15, Firewood, governs the handling and disposal of firewood from tree removal operations.