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POWERCO

# How to avoid power outages

Trees and your  
power supply

## ? Whose responsibility are the trees?

Powerco does not own any trees. If a tree owned by you comes into contact with or causes damage to the Powerco network, you may be held liable for the cost of repair.

It is vitally important for the reliability of your power supply and that of your neighbours, as well as the safety of your community and yourself that these trees are trimmed clear from any contact or potential contact with overhead power lines.

## ? How much is cut?

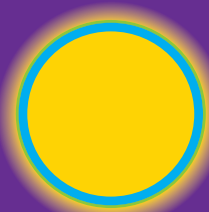
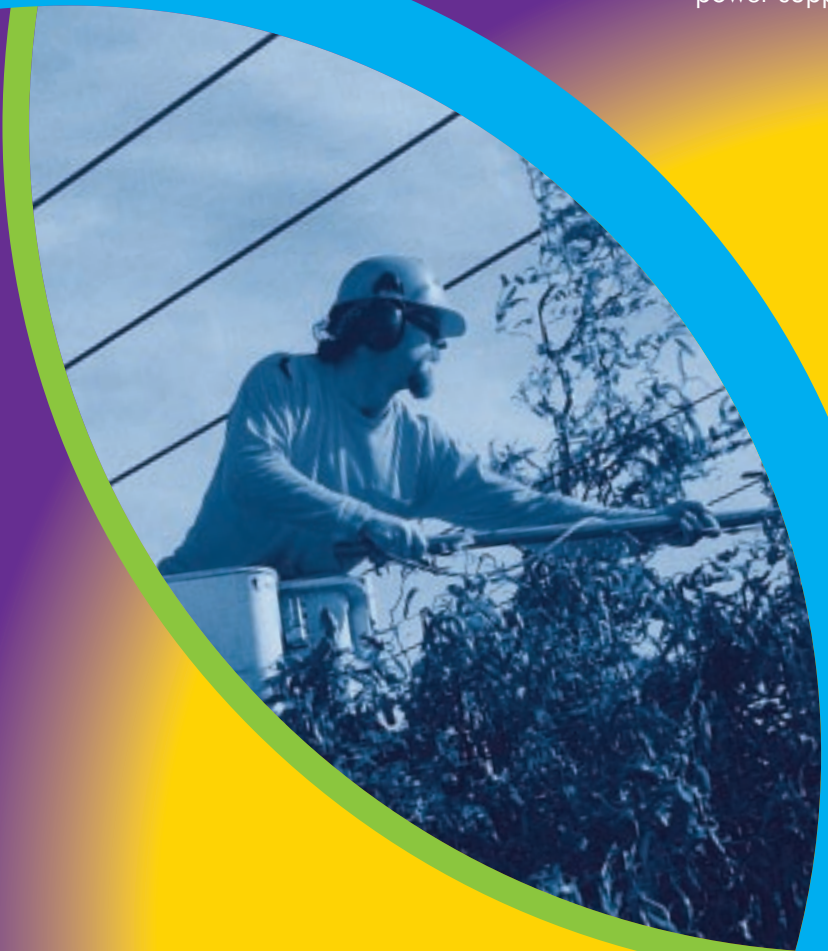
To preserve the natural shape and health of the tree, the contractor considers each tree individually.

Generally, a minimum clearance of 1.5 metres below the power lines and 3 metres to the side is required at all times. The decision about how much is cut is made in consultation with you. Ideally trees are trimmed so that growth stays clear of these distances for the next three years. For some trees, felling may also be an option.

## ? Planting near lines?

If planting trees near your boundary, consider plant species which will not intrude on the power lines in years to come.

A full list of “**power line friendly**” tree and shrub species is available by calling us on 0800 769 372.



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### Trees near power lines

cause unnecessary outages  
and can cause electrocution

# Trees and vegetation coming into contact with power lines cause around 15% of unplanned **outages** to your electricity supply.

For your safety and to improve the reliability of your electricity supply we have prepared a guide for how to deal with trees growing in and around power lines.

Trees touching power lines are a major cause of power outages and faults. Trees can disrupt the power supply for hours if branches fall across or brush against power lines. There is also the risk of injury or death by electrocution when trees are in contact or even close to power lines.

**Trees growing in power lines are a safety hazard that could result in injury or electrocution if someone touches the tree**

**Trees and branches that are near lines cause voltage fluctuations**

## ? What do I do if my trees are near power lines?

There are two ways to tackle this, and to ensure your safety and improve your electricity supply reliability, you can either:

- Engage a qualified contractor to trim the trees. For a list of qualified, experienced contractors operating in your area, please contact us on 0800 769 372.
- Arrange your own tree trimming. However, you need to be aware that trimming trees near power lines can be extremely hazardous and requires appropriate skills, specialised safety equipment and procedures. The Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) Approved Code of Practice only allows non-expert individuals (as defined by the Code of Practice) to trim trees near power lines if the trees are far enough away from the lines. You could also be liable for any damage that occurs to the Powerco network or third parties in the event of an accident occurring during tree trimming. Powerco recommends that this work is undertaken by trained individuals because of the hazardous nature of trimming trees near power lines.