

Don't plant a growing menace

Plan before you plant near power lines. Small trees now can be big problems later.

Dangers of planting trees near power lines

When planting on your property, serious consideration should be given to the species and placement of trees to ensure they do not interfere with power lines. Tree owners may be liable for costs associated with damage caused by their trees to Powerco's network.

Trees and your power supply

This is a notice under the Electricity (Hazards from Trees) Regulations 2003 (Tree Regulations).

Dangers of trees near power lines

Trees in contact with or close to live power lines are a safety hazard, with the potential for causing damage to power lines, injury or electrocution. When conditions are dry, trees near power lines can cause fires.

Dangers of cutting trees near power lines

You may be liable for prosecution under the Electricity (Safety) Regulations 2010 if you carry out work yourself inside the 4m radius around power lines. Touching a live power line or a tree close to the line can cause serious injury or electrocution. Arrange for a qualified and approved contractor to cut or trim trees growing near power lines.

Notice Zone and Growth Limit Zone

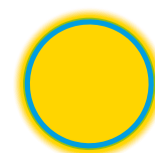
The Tree Regulations state how close trees may come to power lines before trimming is required. The Growth Limit Zone is the space around the power line where trees must not encroach, even in stormy conditions. The Notice Zone is 1m beyond the Growth Limit Zone.

	Notice Zone	Growth Limit Zone
Overhead line		
66kV or greater – High Voltage	5.0m	4.0m
50kV to 66kV – High voltage	4.0m	3.0m
33kV – High Voltage	3.5m	2.5m
11kV – High Voltage	2.6m	1.6m
400/230V – Low Voltage	1.5m	0.5m

Offences under the Tree Regulations

If Powerco becomes aware of a tree encroaching the Growth Limit Zone, it will issue a Cut or Trim Notice to the tree owner stating the tree must be cut or trimmed. A tree owner who fails to arrange for a qualified contractor to (or fails to allow Powerco to) cut or trim the tree, or fails to advise Powerco of the time and location of the cut or trim of the tree may be liable on conviction to a fine up to \$10,000. If the offence continues, a further fine up to \$500 may be levied for each day or part of a day during which the offence continues.

For a list of approved tree contractors in your area, visit powerco.co.nz/safety/tree-trimming, ring 0800 POWERCO (0800 769 372), or scan the QR code.



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