

Timber Harvesting Information

Forestry Activities: The management of forests and timberlands when practiced in accordance with accepted silvicultural principles, through developing, cultivating, harvesting, transporting and selling trees for commercial purposes, which does not involve any land development. Christmas tree farms and landscaping activities associated with residential, business, industrial, or commercial structures shall not be considered forestry activities.

1. **Prior to the issuance of the zoning permit, an Erosion and Sedimentation Control Plan shall be submitted by the applicant to the County Conservation District for review, recommendation, and approval.**
2. A zoning permit shall be obtained from the West Bradford Township prior to harvesting or otherwise removing 30 or more trees with a trunk diameter of three (3) inches or more at a point four (4) feet above ground level on any tract of land larger than one acre. *If a project does not meet the above criteria, applicants should still contact the Township's Zoning Officer at 610-269-4174 and inform him of any minor timber harvesting. This will keep the Township aware of any activities that may be otherwise interpreted as a code violation. Harvesters, on any size tract, must still follow the procedures of the Chester County Conservation District (610-925-4920).*
3. **A Forestry Management Plan shall be prepared and submitted with the zoning permit.** A qualified forester or forester technician shall prepare this plan.
4. The Forestry Management Plan shall be consistent with the Timber Harvesting Guidelines of the Pennsylvania Forestry Association.
5. Clear cutting (the indiscriminate removal of all trees on a site, or portion thereof, during a single timber harvesting operation or within a six-month timeframe) shall be prohibited except on tracts of one acre or less.
6. When harvesting or otherwise removing 40 or more trees with a trunk diameter of three (3) inches or more at a point four (4) three feet above ground level on any tract of land larger than one acre, at least 30% of the forest cover (canopy) shall be kept and the residual trees shall be well distributed. At least 30% of these residual trees shall be composed of the highest value species as determined by a forester and pursuant to the Forestry Management Plan.
7. Clear cutting is prohibited on areas with slopes equal to or greater than fifteen (15) percent, within wetlands, within the Township's Flood Hazard overlay zoning district, and within a one-hundred (100) foot riparian foot buffer along State designated High Quality and Exceptional Value waters.
8. Applicants are encouraged to include a replanting scheme within the Forestry Management Plan using native species