

Tree Hazard Checklist

Why This Checklist Matters

Your trees add beauty, shade, and value to your property – but they can also become dangerous if not properly cared for. Falling limbs, uprooted trunks, and hidden disease can all pose serious risks to your family, your home, and your neighbors.

This checklist will help you:

- Spot signs of tree damage or decline
- Know when it's time to call a certified arborist
- Prepare for storms and insurance claims



Hazard Warning Signs

Tree Trunk & Base

- Large cracks or vertical splits in the trunk
- Mushrooms or fungal growth around base
- Decay, rot, or hollow areas
- Leaning noticeably (especially recent)
- Roots lifting from the soil or exposed excessively
- Sawdust or boreholes (signs of insect activity)

Post-Storm Damage

- Limbs twisted or bent unnaturally
- Bark stripped off
- Tree struck by lightning (burn marks or charring)
- Ground shifted or puddling near the base
- Tree movement in the wind (more than swaying)

Branches & Canopy

- Dead or hanging limbs (widow-makers)
- Broken branches caught in upper canopy
- Large limbs growing toward your house, power lines, or driveway
- Branches with deep V-shaped forks (prone to splitting)
- Excessive leaf loss outside of fall
- Dense canopy blocking sunlight or airflow

High-Risk Situations in Louisville

- Properties in Old Louisville or Crescent Hill with historic or aging trees
- Heavy clay soil in Fern Creek or Okolona increasing uprooting risk
- Frequent windstorms in St. Matthews, Prospect, and Anchorage
- Fast-growing ornamentals (e.g., Bradford Pears) known to split

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When to Call a Certified Arborist

Call New Leaf Tree Service if you notice:

- Major decay or cracking
- Trees leaning after heavy rain
- Visible signs of disease or pest infestation
- Branches over your roof or wires
- After any major Louisville storm event

Bonus Tips for Tree Safety

- Don't DIY large branch removals. It's dangerous and may worsen the damage.
- Avoid mulching against the trunk. It can cause rot and instability.
- Plant smart. Avoid planting fast-growing trees too close to structures.
- Maintain spacing. Overcrowded trees are more likely to fall in high winds.

Emergency Contact

Tree Emergency? Don't Wait.
Call New Leaf Tree Service 24/7 at (502) 419-9899
www.newleaftreeserviceky.com

We're certified, insured, and locally trusted across Louisville.

Emergency tree removal | Tree risk assessments | Insurance documentation support

