



OCT-45382

## Fall: Time for Trees



Fall is the time to plant trees, but did you know Austin Energy's team of tree experts trims trees all year to keep our community safer?

In Austin, issues with trees, vegetation and weather cause more than one out of every three power outages. During windy and stormy weather, swaying and broken tree limbs can rub, contact or damage power lines, causing outages, hazardous conditions and fires.

Thankfully, Austin Energy's Vegetation Management team works with crews on pruning and trimming trees that pose a risk to power lines and equipment. Tree trimming cycles

throughout the city consider the health of your trees while supporting public safety and reliable electricity.

### Here's your quick tree checklist:

- » **Are your trees near power lines?** Electricity from a power line can flow through items that get too close, like ladders, tools, tree branches and even body parts. Never work near power lines or trim tree branches within 10 feet of a power line yourself. Get expert help and stay safe.
- » **Do you see tree trimming experts working on trees in or near your neighborhood?** Show appreciation from a distance. Never approach a crew working near power lines.
- » **Do you want to plant a new tree?** Plant trees in the best location to avoid future contact with power lines.

If you have an issue with a tree near a power line, call **512-322-6771** or request tree trimming services at [austinenenergy.com/go/trees](https://austinenenergy.com/go/trees). Want to learn more about planting trees and finding free trees? Visit [treefolks.org/get-a-tree/neighborhoods](https://treefolks.org/get-a-tree/neighborhoods) for details.

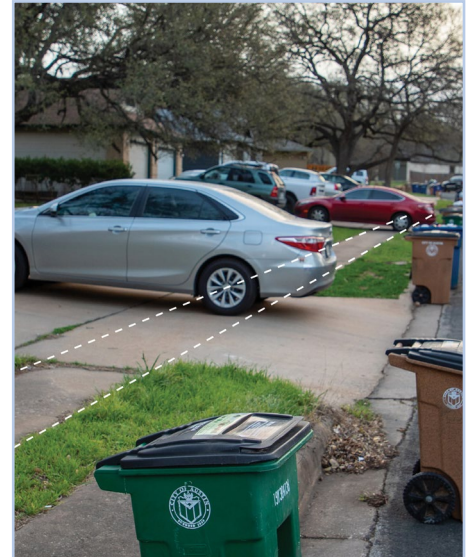


## Turn Around, Don't Drown

Did you know that Austin is located in the most flash flood-prone area of the country? Central Texas is known as "Flash Flood Alley" because our hilly terrain, shallow soils and high rate of rainfall can cause waters to rise quickly in low-lying areas.

Austin roads can flood in a flash and create dangerous conditions. Never try to cross a flooded road or go around a barricade, especially at night. Flood water may be deeper than it appears.

During periods of heavy rain, shelter in place if you can. If you must drive, bike or walk during a rainstorm, plan your route ahead of time. You can find information on road closures at [ATXfloods.com](https://ATXfloods.com). If you see water flowing across a road, always remember to Turn Around, Don't Drown!



## Keep Austin Moving by Removing Obstacles in the Right of Way

With more than 5,000 miles of roads, alleys, sidewalks and trails to maintain, Austin Public Works needs your help keeping our public right of way free of obstacles. Here are easy ways you can help keep Austin moving:

- » **Place waste bins and scooters where they won't block the sidewalk.**
- » **Park your car fully in your driveway or on the street – not on the sidewalk.**
- » **Keep private vegetation trimmed so that it does not grow onto the sidewalk or street.**
- » **Maintain plants you've placed in the right of way and vegetation that can grow into the right of way so they don't obstruct drivers' views or make sidewalks unusable.**

Our public right of way should be safe for all modes of travel. Be considerate of people with different abilities who use our public spaces and together we can work towards creating a more accessible city. Learn more at [austintexas.gov/cleartherow](https://austintexas.gov/cleartherow).

# Help Austin Water Stop the Grease Blob!



Pouring cooking oil or grease down the drain sticks to the insides of pipes and creates a gooey-gross Grease Blob. The more you feed it, the bigger it gets until it's a monster of a clog. Help stop the Grease Blob from causing the need for expensive repairs, foul odors and sanitary sewer overflows.

Fats, oils and grease (FOG) comes from a variety of animal fats and/or vegetable oils. Many solidify at lower temperatures and create an icky Grease Blob.

## Examples of FOG include:

- » Meat fats
- » Sauces and gravy
- » Cooking oils (canola, corn etc.)
- » Yogurt
- » Butter/margarine/nut butter
- » Mayonnaise/salad dressing

## FOG should never go down the drain! Instead, properly dispose of FOG

- » Use a paper towel to wipe grease from pots, pans, plates and utensils prior to washing.
- » Scrape food scraps into the trash, not the sink or garbage disposal (unfortunately, very greasy and oily food cannot be composted).
- » Use a sink strainer to catch food particles.
- » Collect cooking oil or grease in a coffee can, empty milk carton, or similar container (preferably with a lid so it doesn't pour out).

Toss containers of collected FOG in your trash bin. Find out more at: [austintexas.gov/department/grease-blob](http://austintexas.gov/department/grease-blob).



## Shred Day Returns!

With identity theft on the rise, it is important to dispose of sensitive personal records carefully and securely. These include banking, tax and even medical records. The Austin chapter of ARMA, along with Balcones Shred, are resuming the free annual Fall Shred Day as a drive-thru event on Saturday, Nov. 6 from 8 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at the Balcones Shred facility at 9301 Johnny Morris Rd.

Masks and social distancing will be required. Attendees are asked to stay inside their vehicle while volunteers take out the items that need to be shredded. Unlike previous years, attendees will not be able to witness the shredding of their documents. The Fall Shred Day is subject to cancellation at any moment due to COVID concerns; please check [austinarma.com/shred-day](http://austinarma.com/shred-day) for updates.

All shredded material and cardboard boxes are recycled. Monetary donations will be kindly accepted, with proceeds going to the Austin ARMA Chapter and Operation Turkey.

For additional information, visit [austinarma.com/shred-day](http://austinarma.com/shred-day). For questions, contact Austin ARMA via email at [austinarmachapter@gmail.com](mailto:austinarmachapter@gmail.com) or leave a message for a return call at (512) 937-3347.

## National Code Compliance Month

This October, the Austin Code Department (ACD) marks the 15th year since the National Code Compliance Month was founded.

From educational campaigns, community newsletters and stakeholder engagement, Austin Code continues to educate and collaborate with residents. Code Compliance Month helps raise public awareness of what property maintenance codes look like to ensure that the public learns to recognize potential hazards in their communities. Learn about Austin Code at [austintexas.gov/code](http://austintexas.gov/code).

### Stay informed and follow!

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Si gusta recibir este folleto en español, llame a los Servicios Públicos de la Ciudad de Austin al 512-972-9523.

Customer Service Phone: 512-494-9400

24-Hour Power Outage Reporting: 512-322-9100 | 24-Hour Emergency Water Service: 512-972-1000

North Austin Utility Customer Service Center (Walk-in Center): 8716 Research Blvd., Ste. 115

