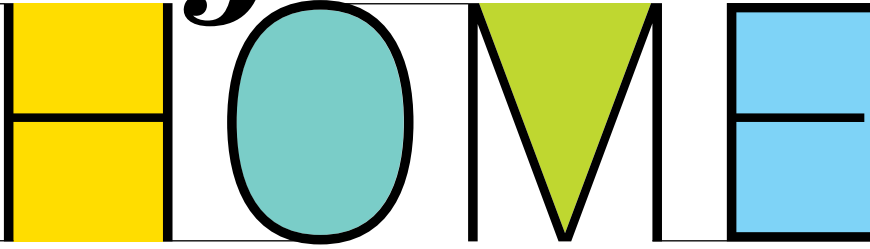


*your*



Tips and trends for homeowners, buyers and sellers



◀ If you have any hesitancy or concerns with the safety of your tree removal project, please call a professional for assistance.

## DIY Tree Removal

**K**nowing how to cut down a tree is a useful skill to have, especially if it's on your home improvement to-do list or if you need firewood. It can, however, be a dangerous task. Taking proper safety precautions and being realistic about the job is important. If the tree is so big that you must use a ladder, this tree is too big for you to safely remove on your own. For large trees, it's best to hire a certified professional. If the tree on your property is small enough for you to handle alone, here are some tips on how to get the job done safely.

- ▶ Water around the tree the day before so that the soil is easier to dig.
- ▶ Evaluate the site and tree. Determine if the tree is dead or alive, and note the direction it may be leaning.
- ▶ Clear the area, estimate a falling zone and create two escape paths.
- ▶ Measure the tree trunk. For every inch around, expect to dig six inches deep so that you reach the entire root system of the tree.
- ▶ Use a chainsaw to create hinge, notching and felling cuts.
- ▶ If the tree is small enough, remove the root ball. If you plan on relocating the tree, keep it intact. If you plan on disposing of the tree, cut it up with a chainsaw.

Always remember to wear goggles, gloves, a mask and a helmet when removing a tree. If you can, ask someone to be a lookout for you. This person should stand a few feet behind you to keep an eye out for falling branches and to alert you when the tree is falling. Also, remember: Never look away from a falling tree.

## Benefits of a Programmable Thermostat

A programmable thermostat is a thermostat that allows you to adjust the heating and cooling equipment in your home based on a preset schedule. The number of homes with programmable thermostats has continued to rise in recent years, and for good reason. They have many more benefits than older, traditional models.



### Energy and cost efficient

Making the switch will make your home more energy efficient, in turn making it more cost efficient. No longer do you have to pay for heating/cooling your home while you are out and about.



### HVAC system

Puts less strain on an older HVAC system. Having a programmable thermostat, as well as a new HVAC system, will increase the efficiency and lifespan of your system.



### Keeps you comfortable

You can control the temperature of your home more conveniently. If you invest in a "smart" thermostat, you may be able to program it remotely using Wi-Fi.



### Get alerts

Some give alerts with information about various parts of your heating and cooling systems that may need servicing, like air filters.



BROUGHT TO YOU BY YOUR AGENT, A CERTIFIED RESIDENTIAL SPECIALIST



**DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO IS THINKING ABOUT BUYING OR SELLING A HOME? PLEASE MENTION MY NAME.**

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Tips and trends for homeowners, buyers and sellers

## Why Switch to LED Lighting?

**M**ore people are making the switch from traditional lighting to LED lightbulbs. Here are a few reasons you should join the movement.



**They're a green solution that helps the environment.**



You are helping to reduce your home's carbon footprint. Due to their high efficiency, these lightbulbs waste up to 5% less energy than other bulbs. LED lightbulbs also contain no mercury or any other hazardous material. Since you'll have to replace LEDs less often, your household will create less waste.

**Because you'll be saving energy, you'll also be saving money.**



You'll see a dip in your electric bill when you make the switch. You'll also have to buy lightbulbs much less often—depending on your daily energy use, LEDs can last for decades.

**LEDs last much longer than alternative lightbulbs.**



The typical incandescent lightbulb will last for about 1,000 hours. Fluorescent lightbulbs are more efficient, lasting from 7,000 to 25,000 hours, depending on frequent switching. LEDs have both options beat, lasting for up to 60,000 hours.

**LEDs provide a higher-quality lighting.**



They will fill your home with enhanced ambient lighting. The light they provide will also be whiter and closer to natural lighting.

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## Say Yes to CRS

Buying or selling a home can seem like an overwhelming task. But the right REALTOR® can make the process easier—and more profitable.

A Certified Residential Specialist (CRS), with years of experience and success, will help you make smart decisions in a fast-paced, complex and competitive marketplace.

To earn the CRS Designation, REALTORS® must demonstrate outstanding professional achievements—including high-volume sales—and pursue advanced training in areas such as finance, marketing and technology. They must also maintain membership in the National Association of REALTORS® and abide by its Code of Ethics.

Work with a top-producing REALTOR®—contact a CRS today.

