



**Q:** Is there anything I can do to prevent winter weather from damaging my trees?

*A: There are many trees that can benefit from pre-winter maintenance. Healthy, sound trees rarely fail at the stump or roots unless there is really severe weather or wood decay at work. The most common source of property damage from trees is the shedding of limbs (live or dead) due to overloading by wind, snow or ice. Structural defects present in the crown or stem can also cause larger sections of a tree to fail. Trees with a history of breakage, the dropping of live limbs, will often continue to shed pieces of their crowns. Why this occurs is not entirely understood, but it is a phenomenon I continue to observe. Unfortunately, trees like this usually need to be removed. We can address many other more minor defects in trees through pruning, cabling and bracing. Arborvitae and white pine hedges, for example, become less susceptible to disfigurement by snow and ice with proper trimming. Always consult with a licensed arborist on the health and care for your trees. Now is the time of year to have me check out your trees; give me a call and I would be happy to evaluate your situation.*

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