



Welcome to my weekly series!
ASK THE LANDSCAPE PROFESSIONAL

Linda K. Lillie of Sprigs & Twigs

SPRIGS & TWIGS HAS BEEN DESIGNATED AN ESSENTIAL BUSINESS AND WE ARE OPEN, IN ACCORDANCE WITH CT GOVERNOR NED LAMONT'S EXECUTIVE ORDER 7H, DATED MARCH 20, 2020.

Hi Linda Many tree branches broke off during the big storm and my father told me to get tree wound paint and put it on the wounds. Is that good advice? ...Amy

Hi Amy,

Thank you for your question. No, it's not good advice to use tree wound paint. Years ago, it was common to paint tree wounds, but more recent research has shown that tree wound paint actually hurts a tree. Paint cuts off the oxygen supply to the damaged area and creates a perfect environment for disease micro-organisms. When damage

occurs, tree branch damage and wounds need to be properly pruned and trimmed to allow the tree the best chance to repair itself. Many people mistakenly cut a damaged branch back flush with the main stem, which creates a larger area for decay. Leave the collar of wood that exists at the base of the branch and make a clean, smooth cut. Also, larger tree wounds often have ragged pieces of torn bark showing. You should take a sharp knife and cut the bark back to where it's solidly attached and create an oval shape (see picture). Trees do not "heal", but "seal" themselves by a process called "compartmentalization" where new wood gradually grows around the damaged wood (see picture). Eventually this callus tissue will completely cover the damage. Not only do trees protect themselves from the outside, there is a process inside in the tree that sets up chemical boundaries to protect the tree from decay organisms.



Sprigs & Twigs, Inc has a licensed arborist and offers a complete range of Tree Care Services: storm damage recovery, tree pruning, tree fertilization, Tree removal, cabling and stump grinding. Feel free to contact us for a free consultation.

EMAIL OR MAIL YOUR QUESTIONS TO:
info@sprigsandtwigs.net or
 Linda Lillie, Sprigs & Twigs Inc,
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Good Luck.



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