

Stump Grinding



Stump grinding is a quick and efficient way to remove stumps (and sometimes surface roots) from the landscape. The stump grinding machine is about the size of a riding lawnmower and weighs approximately 3,200 pounds. The machine is 42 inches wide, so all access points must be wider than this to allow access for the stump grinding machine. Other obstacles that prevent the use of the stump grinder are steep slopes and/or stumps located within retaining walls or other landscaped areas.

Do I Need to Remove the Stump?

Stumps left behind after tree removals may be an obstacle or an eyesore in managed lawn and landscape areas. They can last for decades, and may produce suckers and shoots until the stump dies. In order to plant something new in the area of the stump, complete removal is necessary.

Professional & Safe Stump Grinding

Rainbow Treecare professionals are highly trained on the safety of both the specialized stump grinding machinery and navigating underground utilities. Standard stump grinding removes the stump to 8-10" below the soil surface; if desired, surface roots in the area are specified for grinding as well.

Stump grinding is not done on the same day as a tree removal. Our office contacts Gopher State One Call to determine the location of utilities (electricity, natural gas) to ensure safety. After major utilities are located and marked for the site, we schedule and perform the grinding service.

If the location of an underground utility is within 24 inches of the stump, we take further safety measures to pinpoint the exact location of the utility in question. In these cases, we use a compressed air tool (Air Spade) to uncover and expose underground utilities. This process is called "daylighting", as it makes the utilities clearly visible. Daylighting ensures that contact and damage will be prevented during the grinding operation.

Privately Installed Utilities

Gopher State One Call does not locate private lines that belong to a homeowner or property owner. This can include electric lines to detached garages, invisible fencing, decorative lighting, natural gas lines to grills, and irrigation lines. The property owner is responsible for having these lines located before stump grinding.

Preparation for New Planting

The stump grinding process tends to leave behind large volume of chips mixed with soil from the immediate area. Though it is possible to leave this material on site, most customers prefer to have us haul away the chips. Depending on your landscape plans, we can apply fresh topsoil, as well as grass seed to the area after stump grinding.



Stump grinder controlled by remote.



Cleanup after stump grinding.



Grinding the stump down to 8-10" below the soil surface