

# LEARN HOW A SIMPLE ACTION WE TAKE CAN KEEP YOUR TREES HEALTHY



Simple tasks like **cleaning and sterilizing tools** between properties can significantly prevent the spread of diseases and limit damage caused by pests, bacteria, fungi, and more. Many problems affecting the health of trees or gardens are caused by the transfer of microorganisms or pests from one location to another. Without realizing or being able to see it, equipment, such as clippers, can pick up diseases, which can then be transmitted to other properties if not properly disinfected. This can result in pathogens spreading and causing harm to other trees or areas.

An easy way to think of it is like this, would you want to go to the dentist and find out they used the same tools to clean your teeth as the person before you, without sterilizing them? Or imagine a nurse using the same needle all day to take blood from different patients. While this might seem extreme, trees and plants spread diseases just like humans do.

An easy way to prevent the spread of disease is by cleaning tools between uses. Even when working with different plant materials, it's important to keep all equipment clean. This principle applies to all outdoor services. Lawn care tools, such as lawn mowers, should also be cleaned before moving to different properties to stop the spread of diseases, weeds, and unwanted pests.

For example, Beech Leaf Disease (BLD) is caused by microscopic nematodes. If a Beech tree or hedge unknowingly had BLD and was pruned with clippers, it is possible the nematodes could be transferred onto the tools. Without proper sanitation, the contaminated tools could be used to prune a healthy Beech tree or hedge and spread the nematodes. This will infect the healthy tree and can lead to significant health problems for the tree.

At Van Dyke's Tree Care, we strive to provide high-quality care for trees and plants while being transparent and educating people about potential threats to their gardens. This is just one example of how small, simple actions can have a large impact on our gardens.

**As mentioned, we aim to be fully transparent in our actions. If you have any questions or would like to know more about the simple steps we take to keep trees healthy, please contact us. You can also visit our website for more in-depth information on threats to your garden.**