

Tree Protection Checklist for Backyard Renovations

GreenLeaf Tree Care - NYC Metro and Long Island Homeowner Guide 2026

Before the Project Starts

1 Choose which trees stay

Decide before the design is finalized, not after the crew arrives.

2 Book a tree evaluation

Have an arborist check health and root zones near the work area.

3 Mark the protection zone

One foot of radius for every inch of trunk diameter, at minimum.

4 Write it into the contract

Put the fenced no-go zone on the site plan as a condition.

During and After the Work

1 Fence the root zone

Set fencing at the dripline or wider and keep it up all project.

2 Keep equipment out

No vehicles, spoil piles, or material storage over the roots.

3 Bore under roots

Tunnel for utilities and drainage instead of trenching through.

4 Deep water and mulch

Slow, deep soaks and mulch through the first summer after.

5 Watch for late stress

Small leaves, canopy thinning, and trunk sprouts mean call an arborist.

Questions? Visit greenleaftreeremovalny.com to get in touch.