



Alameda County Fire Department Community Chipper Program Frequently Asked Questions

The Alameda County Fire Department (ACFD) is offering a free community chipping service to assist residents in reducing vegetation by helping with the chipping of material produced in amounts too large for green bins and too small for commercial chipping providers. Please see below for frequently asked questions about the program.

WHAT CAN I CHIP? Only vegetation can be chipped. Tree limbs; brush, shrubs, and small trees up to 8" diameter. No grass, hay, leaves, or individual pieces weighing more than 80 pounds. No staples, nails, barbed wire, vines, or fencing of any kind.

CAN I CHIP ANY KIND OF VEGETATION? No, piles cannot include poison oak, Scotch or French broom, blackberry and vines. Piles of leaves, pine needles or yard clippings cannot be chipped.

WILL ACFD CUT THE VEGETATION I WANT REMOVED? No. The ACFD will chip material that has already been cut and stacked by the roadside.

I'M HAVING A LARGE TREE REMOVED BY A PROFESSIONAL TREE SERVICE, WILL ACFD CHIP IT AFTER IT HAS BEEN TAKEN DOWN? No. The community chipping program is designed for branches, brush, and small trees up to 8" diameter with individual pieces weighing less than 80 pounds.

WHERE SHOULD I PLACE VEGETATION TO BE CHIPPED? On the roadside, in a manner that does not interfere with vehicular traffic flow or visibility along roadside. Piles are NOT to exceed 4 feet in height. ACFD contractor will not carry material beyond 10 feet.

HOW DO I STACK THE VEGETATION MATERIALS TO BE CHIPPED? Parallel to the roadway with all cut stems facing the same direction to facilitate loading into the chipper.

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE IN THE ACFD CHIPPER PROGRAM? Neighborhoods are encouraged to organize to schedule a day for chipping. This will dramatically increase the effectiveness of the program by reducing travel time from site to site.

CAN I CHIP WOOD FENCING? No, you cannot chip wood fencing.

WHERE DO THE CHIPS GO? All chips will be left at the property. The resident must immediately spread the piles out to no deeper than 3 ".

WHERE CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION? Send an email to OneLessSpark@acgov.org or call (510) 632-3473 extension 1190 or (925) 833-3473 extension 1190.