

Save Your Trees: Say No to Volcano Mulching



You've seen this common issue: trees poking out of the top of mulch volcanos. But this is actually the fastest way to **kill** a tree. Mulch volcanos weaken and kill trees by:

- Retaining moisture directly against the trunk, which rots the trunk.
- Leading to insect and rodent damage to the trunk under the mulch.
- Causing roots to grow into the mulch, which girdle and strangle the tree.



This **properly mulched tree** receives the benefits of mulch and is set for a long, healthy life.



This tree is the **victim of a mulch volcano**. It is headed for an early death but can be saved by following the steps above.

Follow the **3-3-3 Rule for Proper Mulching:**

1. **Keep mulch 3 inches from the trunk.**
2. **Mulch 3 inches deep.**
3. **Spread mulch in at least a 3-foot diameter around the trunk.**

Create a donut-hole around the tree's root flare (where the base of the trunk widens). That keeps the mulch from piling up against the trunk and keeps the tree healthy.

Trees are a valuable asset and need to be properly maintained.

Keep your trees healthy by *properly* mulching them.

Contact the Abington Shade Tree Commission if you have questions: stc@abingtonpa.gov

<https://www.abingtonpa.gov/government/shade-tree-commission>