

## Arborist FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions)

### *How does working with Viable Lumber benefit me?*

- Viable Lumber takes heavy logs, which can cut down on your disposal fees and gas spent hauling logs to the dump, saving you money.
- By leaving the logs whole, you spend less time cutting logs into disposable chunks. This saves wear and tear on your equipment (chippers, chainsaws, hauling equipment).
- Since the wood is being recycled, this allows you to provide a green alternative to your environmentally conscious clients.
- The Viable Lumber network includes many artists and craftsmen who can create mementos and heirloom pieces out of the wood for clients with sentimental attachments to their trees.
- Viable Lumber will offers discounts on lumber or finished products to arborists that work with us.

### *What trees does Viable Lumber accept?*

We wish we could salvage every tree, but the truth is, not every tree can be recovered. We can't take all trees because some are unsuitable for lumber (prone to splitting or warping). Viable Lumber has been testing local woods to determine their usability for lumber, wood turning or other finished products. The following is a list of trees we are most interested in, but if you come across a tree that is not on this list but is exceptional in some way (extremely large, burls or tumors, lightning strike, unusual color, etc.) please call us! Trees with asterisks require a permit before removal.

- **Australian Cypress**
- **Avocado**
- **Bishop wood**
- **Buttonwood\***
- **Camphor**
- **Cedar\***
- **Chinaberry**
- **Chinese Elm\***
- **Citrus (orange, grapefruit, lime – only large trees)**
- **Cypress\***
- **Eucalyptus**
- **Golden Flamboyant (Flame tree or Copperpod tree)**

- **Hickory**
- **Holly\***
- **Indian Rosewood**
- **Java Plum**
- **Live Oak\***
- **Mango**
- **Mangrove\***
- **Maple\***
- **Mimosa (Woman's Tongue)**
- **Monkeypod\* (Ear Tree)**
- **Monkeypuzzle**
- **Norfolk Pine**
- **Pecan**
- **Red Bottlebrush**
- **Sea Grape\***
- **Silky Oak**
- **Southern Pine\* – old growth only**
- **Sweetgum\***
- **Any other tropical hardwood tree over 12” in diameter!**

*Do we need to call Viable Lumber before we start cutting the tree?*  
**YES, CALL FIRST!!!**

*Why does it matter how we cut the tree?*

Viable Lumber is looking for wood that can be used for finished products like fine furniture, turned bowls, and sculpture (please visit our gallery of finished products to see some examples). How the tree is cut determine what pieces can be salvaged:

- Long, straight trunks can be milled into boards
- Crotches, burls, and pieces with unusual figure can be turned

Dropping a trunk or large limb can shock the wood, fracturing it and rendering it useless. A few minutes lowering it by rope not only preserves the quality of the wood, but may also be safer for your team.

*In general, how do the trees need to be cut?*

Limbs larger than 12” should be removed from the tree and set aside for Viable Lumber (lower by rope, not dropped). The longest straight length of trunk that can be preserved should be cut and lowered (minimum length = 6ft).

***We didn't call Viable Lumber and we cut the tree into small chunks. Do you still want it?***

Maybe. If the wood is exception or a high demand species (like Rosewood), we may still be able to get turning stock out of smaller logs.

***Our client wants to use the wood from their tree or have something made out of it as a memento... How does that work?***

Viable Lumber can give them a portion of the wood but it is expensive to haul, move, store, mill, kiln-dry and shape the wood. We can give them a substantial discount on finished wood or commissioned woodworks.