



ICE DAMAGE & OAK WILT

If a recent ice storm damaged your oak trees, you may wonder what you should (and shouldn't) do to clean up the damage while protecting them from oak wilt. While painting fresh wounds on oak trees is important to prevent the spread of oak wilt, wounds caused by the ice storm are no longer fresh. In cold conditions, trees quickly stop exuding sap, and sap-feeding beetles are not active, so it is unlikely that oak wilt will spread due to an initial ice storm event.

Immediately Address the Following:

- Broken limbs on roofs, fences or other structures
- Limbs blocking driveways and travel lanes
- Hanging limbs that could cause personal or property damage if they fall

Prune safely within your ability, and DO NOT remove limbs on or near power lines. For work you cannot complete safely, or that is beyond your ability, find a Certified Arborist. isatexas.com/for-the-public/find-an-arborist

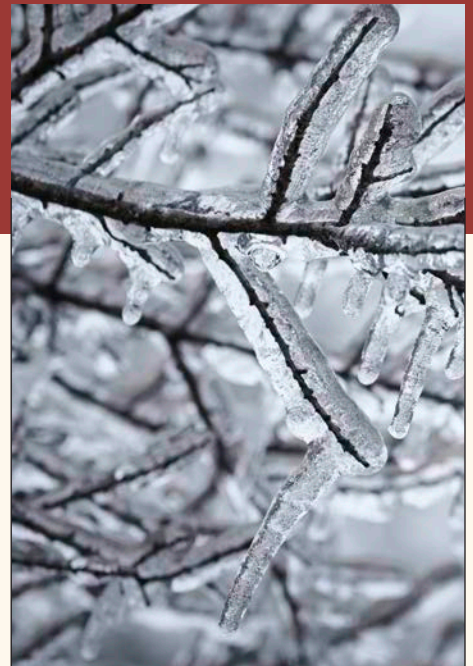
Use wound dressing or latex paint to immediately paint any new wounds on oak trees created during cleanup. Immediately means making one cut and then painting it before making the next cut. Clean all pruning tools with a 10% bleach solution or Lysol™ before pruning a different tree.

Additional cosmetic pruning of oaks should be delayed until summer, once the threat of oak wilt spread has diminished. Avoid pruning oaks from February through June! Any trees that are not oaks can be pruned at any time, and painting the wounds is unnecessary.

When disposing of debris, burning should be delayed until spring green-up when wildfire danger is reduced. If debris must be disposed of immediately, a chipper is recommended. tfsweb.tamu.edu/PreventWildfire

Most live oaks, and many other trees that currently have leaves, also suffered freeze damage. However, it is only possible to determine the true extent of this damage after spring green-up. Trees are quite resilient, and the damage may be better than it initially seems. So be patient, prune selectively, and be sure to paint any fresh wounds on all oak trees.

All information sourced from:



For more information on oak wilt:
texasoakwilt.org

For more on storm recovery:
tfsweb.tamu.edu/afterthestorm