

DAVEY KNOWS...SPIKING TREES IS *NOT* THE WAY TO GO

It is very important when pruning trees that the correct procedures be followed, in order to keep them looking healthy and strong. Spiking damages a tree, making it more susceptible to disease, insects and other stresses. Davey Tree wants to make you aware that spiking may *seem* to be an easy way for a tree trimmer to enter the tree and get the job done quickly, but in the long run, it will do much more harm than good.

The practice of using climbing spikes when pruning trees injures them, leaving entry sites for wood-rotting fungi. Climbing spurs (spikes) are steel gaffs attached to shanks that are strapped to the inside of a worker's leg. Workers secure their footing by driving the spurs into the trunk of the tree. With their spurs in the wood, workers are able to stand or walk along the vertical trunk or limb.

Spurs should only be used on trees that are dead or being removed. If necessary, spurs can be used on trees in an emergency rescue situation. According to the ANSI A300, which sets the proper pruning standards, a tree should not be pruned using spikes. Open wounds in the wood will be more likely to become infected with fungi (types of micro-organisms that can completely overwhelm a tree).

For more information on how to keep the trees on your property healthy and strong, contact Davey Tree today.

