

VOLCANOES KILLING TREES IN NEW JERSEY



This is the **wrong** way to use mulch around a tree.

Never pile mulch against bark!

Mulch volcanoes are killing our trees!

What do I need to know to mulch trees the right way?

- Start 6 inches from the tree trunk at ground level and mulch outward to the edge of the dripline to a maximum depth of 2 inches to 4 inches.
- Keep a 2-inch to 4-inch layer around, but not touching the base of the tree. Mulch as much of the area under a tree as possible without having mulch touch the trunk.
- Never pile-up a cone of mulch around the tree trunk! Mice, insects, and fungus may hide next to the trunk and feed on parts of the tree. The cone-shaped mulch piles and thick layers of mulch also prevent water from reaching a tree's roots. Tree roots that grow up into the cone of mulch on top of the soil cannot be healthy.
- One layer of woven Landscape Fabric may be used under mulch in heavy weed areas. Never use plastic sheets under the mulch. Plastic sheets block the passage of air and water and stunt root growth.
- Every spring or every other spring, rake or remove any hard crust and add only enough new mulch to maintain a 2-inch to 4-inch layer. Never build up layers of mulch by adding new mulch on top of the old mulch around a tree.



**2 INCHES TO 4 INCHES DEEP
START 6 INCHES FROM THE TRUNK**

Improper mulching kills trees! Mulch should never be piled up into a cone around a tree trunk. These *mulch volcanoes* are killing trees and are wasting money on excess mulch material. It is easy to remember . . .

***VOLCANOES ARE BAD!
DONUTS ARE GOOD!***