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Available for JUMBO loans, conventional loans and for refinance loans.

Available for 2nd homes and investment properties, in addition to owner occupied.

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The myEnergyLoan program works with or without the Energy Efficient Mortgage.

We provide a free analysis to see if the borrower qualifies for an EEM.

Introducing a Better Loan for Energy Efficient Home Buyers

**Call Jeff Cole at
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The Healthy Home Team

ask the experts

Landscape


Q: *Is it true that pruning your trees can help them withstand heavy winds during a bad storm?* —A. Page, Vinings

A: Yes, it's true. Arborists have suspected this for some time, but scientific research is now confirming that properly pruned trees can better withstand high winds.

Just this year, Dr. Edward Gillman, a scientist known worldwide in the tree care industry, completed his research using a high-powered wind machine in a controlled experiment with trees. Under the force of 120 mph winds directed through a 15-foot-tall by 15-foot-long wind tunnel, five pruned trees bent on a 17-degree incline, while the trees that received no pruning bent at an incline of 47 degrees under the same conditions. Trees pruned from the bottom up bent at 35 degrees and trees pruned properly throughout the canopy bent at 23 degrees.

Dr. Gillman's research showed that pruned trees stand up to fierce winds better than those that haven't been pruned. More importantly, his research shows that having the long branches of your trees trimmed on the sides of your canopy further enhances their survivability during storms with heavy winds.

An arborist can determine the type of pruning necessary to maintain or improve the health, appearance and safety of your trees, as well as other factors that affect their survivability, such as soil saturation, trunk defects and overall health. But knowing that you can help your trees withstand the strong winds by having them properly pruned is one step in the right direction.

—Mark Livingston, ISA Certified Arborist, Arboguard Tree Specialists 

Editorial Resources begin on page 174.

Need advice from the experts?

E-mail your questions to **editor@homeimprovementmag.com**, or mail them to 80 W. Wieuca Road, Suite 115, Atlanta, GA 30342.

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