

# CABLING

## Benefits of Cabling

### Proper Installation

Cabling is best done at the recommendation of and under the supervision of an Arborist. Prestige uses ANSI approved steel cable, thimbles, lag hooks, and dead-end grips to ensure the highest level of quality in our hardware.

### Direct Cabling

Direct Cabling is the most common type of cabling we install. It is a single cable installed between two branches, often co-dominant stems, or particularly heavy limbs in larger tree canopies. It is represented in the picture below as Figure a.

### Triangular Cabling

Triangular Cabling involves three cables installed at different heights along multi-trunk trees. This form of cabling connects three main leader branches together as shown below in Figure b. These systems can be altered to support four or more branches as needed (shown in Figure d).



## Why would I cable a tree?

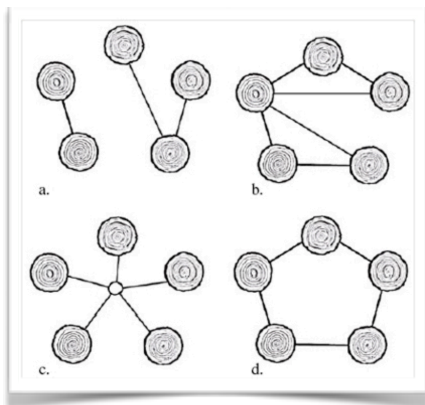
Tree Cabling is a service that can improve the longevity of trees that have grown in a manner that makes them prone to splitting, from co-dominant stems, to large, heavy branches, and more. It is one of the best defenses against storm damage in trees, and one of the most popular tree support systems in the field today.

### *What is Tree Cabling?*

Tree Cabling is the act of installing a steel cable in the canopy of a tree to limit the movement of major branches and improve their structural integrity.

### *Maintaining My Cabling System*

The International Society of Arboriculture and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources recommends annual inspections by an arborist of all tree support systems. Proper inspections ensure that the system is still functioning as it was designed, and address any issues identified.



## Hub & Spoke Cabling

Hub & Spoke Cabling is the most complex form of cabling. It is also the least common. It is sometimes used when cabling is desired, but more canopy movement should be allowed than is allowed with more typical direct cabling techniques. Hub & Spoke Cabling is shown in Figure c in the above picture.

## Other Services

It is often recommended that cabling services be coupled with pruning. Pruning is part of a healthy tree's normal lifecycle. Proper pruning eliminates dead and hazardous branches that can lead to spreading decay and tree failure. Some branches may need to be removed to allow cabling systems to be installed at ideal heights and angles. Further, a pruning service known as a "weight reduction," may be beneficial to lessen the loading experienced by a cabling system. Sometimes this service alone can eliminate the need for a cabling system. Please be sure to speak with one of our arborists about what will work best for your tree!

## Other Types of Tree Support Systems

Arborists have other means of supporting trees, and each has their unique applications, pros, and cons.

- **Dynamic cabling systems** are becoming more popular. They are very similar to static cabling systems, except they use non-rigid synthetic fibers, and allow for more natural tree movement, which can, in turn, allow the tree a chance to improve its strength overtime.

- **Tree bracing** is the act of installing a long rod closer to the base of a tree near a junction of major leads. This involved drilling through a tree, which can be very invasive.

- **Tree guying** is tethering a tree to the ground to provide additional support of to counteract a significant lean. This is most effective with relatively young and/or small trees.

If you have any questions about cabling, or any other tree care services, please reach out to one of our arborists!

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