

► Checking Stakes & Platipus Anchors

Your trees' stakes and/or Platipus underground or overhead anchors have a **vital** role to play in your trees' establishment. Slight canopy movement by wind can be beneficial to a tree establishing, however, it is important that root balls **do not rock excessively** in the wind as this will sever fine, new roots trying to grow into the surrounding soil.

Check your stakes regularly, and **especially after high winds** to be sure they are firm and the ties and cushions are holding the trees securely in the correct position. Stakes can potentially be removed after two full growing seasons, but this will depend on how well your tree is rooted, how exposed is the site and the species and form of tree.

Should you leave the stakes indefinitely, the straps can become overly tight, which **can eventually choke the tree** or, at best, leave a compression mark on the bark. In time, it is even possible for a tree to completely envelop a redundant tie, which can lead to structural weaknesses.

Slight movement of the head of all trees is natural and often a stimulus to encourage better rooting out of the tree, but there is a point where the level of movement becomes detrimental to the establishment of the tree. Platipus anchors often require further maintenance after the first high winds. If overhead guys are **slack** and/or if the tree is **moving dramatically** in the wind, or is now **crooked**, the system may need tightening, but not so that the system is over tight. Excessive movement may be seen as a large crack in the soil surrounding the tree.

In all cases, minor movement in the root ball is no cause for concern and should not require any remedial action.



Trees, especially Willows will grow very quickly, so regularly check them during the growing season, loosening off the rubber strapping so that it does not become imbedded as your trees grow.



If an overhead Platipus guying system is installed, you must inspect it at least once a year and slacken it off as necessary.



There is never a need to remove the underground Platipus cables, though by all means, cut the top cable out after 3 years to ensure it never comes into contact with the trunk of the tree as it grows. However, if fitted with an overhead guying system, after 2-3 years you can remove the overhead cables by simply cutting off the cable just below the ground at all three points, after which the rest will simply disassemble for disposal.

Whilst Majestic Trees are willing to offer this adjustment or removal service for stakes and guys, it will be chargeable and could be far more cost effective for you to purchase a Platipus Ratchet Handle of the correct size through us (posted to you) and adjust or remove them yourself by rotating the ratchet handle in the correct direction. We offer a 50% refund for all handles returned.

Stakes can be removed by unscrewing or cutting the strapping, then unscrewing the crossbar and rocking and rotating the posts till they are loose enough to pull out, though often they will break after two seasons in the ground. Be careful not to injure yourself by putting too much leverage on your back when pulling the stakes out.

Please contact a horticultural adviser if you have any questions.