



# Corradino & Papa

*A Personal Injury Law Firm*

**973-574-1200**

**CHAMPIONS OF JUSTICE**

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## leave tree trimming

### TO THE PROFESSIONALS

Tree trimming is a valuable service that can enhance the health of a tree and extend its longevity. It is frequently advisable to have this service performed over the winter, since most trees will be dormant and won't be subjected to punishing heat, drought effects, or insects. However, tree trimming can be an extremely hazardous task that's better left to professionals.



Unfortunately, do-it-yourselfers (DIYers) are killed or injured every year by falling branches, plummets from trees, improper use of tools and ladders, or defective equipment. Even professionals are at risk: Landscape service workers account for approximately 1% of the total workforce but 3.5% of all workplace fatalities.

A good rule of thumb is that if a tree trimming requires a ladder or climbing into the tree, call a professional tree service. Many DIYers want to save money or tend to the job immediately or on their own schedule. Understandable. But they often underestimate what's involved. Ascending and descending a ladder (or the tree itself) can be hazardous. Utilizing a chain saw or other saws or sharp tools while on a ladder can be perilous. Undetected dead or decaying branches and altered centers of gravity can add unwanted wrinkles to tree trimming.

In addition, DIYers may end up harming their tree with shoddy work. Tree trimming (and resultant cleanup) can be laborious and time-consuming too. To do the best job means having top-notch equipment, which can get pricey. Sometimes ladders and tools have defects that lead to injuries.

You can't put a price on safety. If you are harmed by someone's negligence, contact **Corradino & Papa** for skilled and thoughtful representation. ■

*Your Biggest Accident Could Be Your Choice of Attorney*

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# AN ACCIDENT WITH AN uninsured driver

In 2022, the Insurance Research Council found that 14% of drivers in this country do not have auto insurance; that's 1 in 7 drivers without insurance. If you are involved in an accident with that "1" the ramifications can be substantial.

A person who lives in a "no-fault" state will have their medical bills, lost wages (with state-to-state variations), and funeral expenses paid by their own insurance company, up to the coverage limits, regardless of who was at fault in an accident. A driver will need separate collision coverage to cover auto repairs.

In a "fault" (or "tort") state, the at-fault driver is responsible for paying for damages and injuries to the other driver. If the at-fault driver has no insurance, you obviously aren't going to be compensated by their nonexistent insurance company. In this scenario, you could file a personal injury claim against the at-fault driver to receive compensation for damages. However, if the at-fault driver wasn't paying for auto insurance, it's possible they won't be able to pay for your damages.

Under these circumstances, your medical bills can be paid by your health insurance, and collision coverage can help you with auto-repair costs. However, in both cases you will be stuck with unmet deductible costs. As for lost wages and pain and suffering, you're on your own.

Every driver should purchase uninsured/underinsured (UM/UIM) motorist insurance. It's a great preventive measure to counter an otherwise dire situation. If the at-fault driver doesn't have any, or enough, insurance to cover your damages, your UM/UIM policy will cover you up to the policy limits. It's relatively inexpensive, so buy as much as you reasonably can. ■

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## stay safe AROUND SNOWPLOWS

In the midst of a snowstorm, snowplow operators have limited visibility, often work long shifts marked by stressful circumstances, and could be dealing with fatigue, cold, and other possible distractions. Ideally, stay home and let them work in peace, but if you must be out there, drive defensively, exercise patience, and give snowplows the special consideration they deserve to maintain everyone's safety.

Whenever possible, don't pass an active snowplow — or echelon plows (i.e., multiple plows working together to clear several highway lanes at a time). The roadway behind the plow is in better shape than the roadway ahead of it. Maintain a 10-car-length-or-more distance behind the plow, as it may be dispersing salt or occasionally kicking up chunks of packed snow or ice. If you absolutely need to pass a snowplow, steer clear of "snow clouds" emanating from the plow, which further hamper visibility and can conceal the true width of plow attachments. Some plows also have wing attachments jutting out from the side of the vehicle. Be mindful of a snowplow driver's blind spots too.

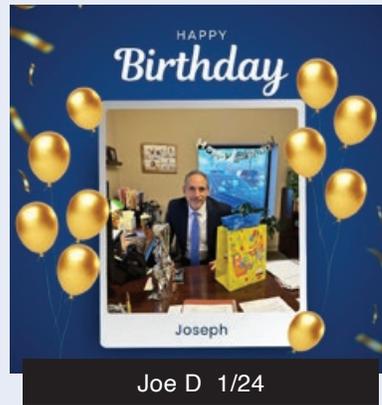
On undivided highways, if you see a snowplow approaching, move right if possible. Again, snowplow width and snow clouds can be a concern. When changing lanes, be aware of ridges of snow between lanes that can make things tricky.

Stay alert to the following situation as well. You're shoveling out your car on a side street but decide to take a break and warm up inside your vehicle. A snowplow plows you back in, covering up your tailpipe. Carbon monoxide can become lethal in a hurry.

If you are injured by another driver's negligence, contact [Corradino & Papa](#) to protect your rights. ■

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# January birthdays



## foreseeability AND PROXIMATE CAUSE

Let's take a deep dive into a couple of personal injury terms ... well, maybe dip our toe in the water.

“Foreseeability” and “proximate cause” are two key factors in proving negligence in a personal injury case. Foreseeability refers to predictability — an act that someone of ordinary mental capacity should be able to see will lead to repercussions, meaning a plaintiff’s injury or property damage. For instance, a dog attack should be foreseeable when a dog has a history of such behavior.

Proximate cause can be defined as the “legal cause” of an injury — in the eyes of the law, the primary reason an injury occurred.

It need not be the first event of a sequence of events leading to the injury, nor necessarily the most eye-catching aspect of the accident. Some states utilize the “but for” test: The injury would not have happened **but for** the proximate cause (i.e., the defendant’s negligence). Other states use the “substantial factor” test. This considers whether the defendant’s negligence was a substantial factor in causing the injury. If the contribution to the injury is deemed trivial, it won’t achieve proximate-cause status. As you can imagine, the definition of “trivial” may be disputed.

Although injury may be foreseeable, the extent of injury might not be — the same negligent act can affect one person more severely than the next. Regardless, a liable defendant will be on the hook for the full extent of the plaintiff’s damages. This is known as the “eggshell skull” rule.

If you find yourself the victim of negligence, contact [Corradino & Papa](#). We will fight to attain fair compensation for your injuries, allowing you to focus on healing. ■



## January 2025 – Mark Your Calendars

Jan. 1 — New Year's Day    Jan. 5 — Whipped Cream Day    Jan. 12 — Hot Tea Day    Jan. 17 — Kid Inventors Day  
Jan. 20 — Martin Luther King Jr. Day    Jan. 23 — Pie Day    Jan. 29 — Red Carnation Day

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Personal Injury  
Car Accident  
Truck Accidents  
Auto Accident  
Slip and Falls  
Dog Bite

Premises Liability  
Work Accidents  
Workers' Compensation  
Medical Malpractice  
Construction Accidents  
Motor Vehicle Accidents  
Product Liability  
Wrongful Death  
PIP Arbitration



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**Quote of the Month:** "Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things that you didn't do than by the ones you did do. So throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbor. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover." –Mark Twain

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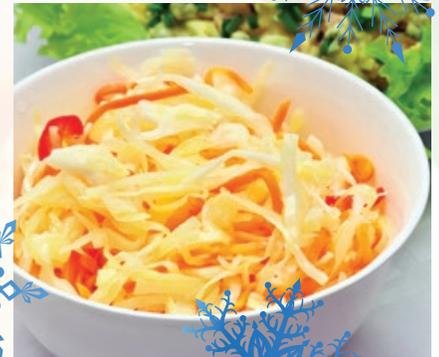
# mediterranean cabbage salad

Prep time: 15 min.

When it comes to cabbage, sauerkraut hogs the January spotlight. But that's not the only cabbage dish in town. Here's a sour, sweet, spicy, crunchy salad that you can keep in the fridge for 3 to 5 days. It's one of the best Mediterranean chopped cabbage salads you will taste.

## Ingredients

- 1 medium cabbage, finely chopped
- 3 carrots, shredded
- 1 yellow bell pepper, finely chopped
- 1 orange bell pepper, finely chopped
- 1 red bell pepper, finely chopped
- Celery to taste, finely chopped
- 8 Kalamata olives, chopped
- ¾ cup white wine vinegar
- Salt and pepper to taste
- Olive oil to taste



## Directions

1. Place all chopped vegetables in a food container, and season with salt and pepper according to taste. Pour in the white wine vinegar. Stir well.
2. Before serving, strain well the quantity you want, and add olive oil. Put the rest in the fridge.
3. Can be stored in the fridge for 3 to 5 days.

## NOTES:

1. If you'd like, add red cabbage, garlic, parsley, arugula, radish, chili peppers, and/or capers.
2. Don't add balsamic vinegar; it will change the beautiful colors of the salad into a kind of black, unappetizing mass.

Recipe courtesy of [30daysofgreekfood.com](http://30daysofgreekfood.com). ■