



TIPS FOR SELECTING A TREE CARE COMPANY

1. **Only hire a certified arborist.**
Experience, education and a good reputation are essential. Ask for the qualifications of the person doing the actual work on your tree. For a list of certified arborists in your area, contact the International Society of Arboriculture at 1-888-463-2316 or www.isaontario.com or www.treesaregood.com.
2. **Beware of door-knockers.**
This is common after storms or when pressing issues, such as Emerald Ash Borer, make property owners vulnerable to scare tactics. Door-knockers who try to sell tree removal services on the spot are often non-professionals trying to earn quick money. Removal of dying, dead or hazardous trees creates high-risk situations for both workers and property owners. Always ensure you are hiring a qualified professional.
3. **Ask if workers will use climbing spikes or spurs.**
Responsible companies will not use these devices on a live tree unless it is being removed, as they puncture the bark and create potential entry points for pests and disease.
4. **Ask for proof of worker's compensation with the Workers Safety and Insurance Board and proof of liability insurance.**
Contact the insurance company to make certain the policy is current. Under some circumstances, property owners can be held financially responsible if an uninsured worker is hurt, or a neighbouring property is damaged.
5. **Request a list of local references.**
Look at a potential company's past work and talk to former clients if possible.
6. **Never be rushed or pressured into "bargains."**
Get more than one estimate and be willing to pay for them. Be aware that the lowest bid is not necessarily the best service.
7. **Be an informed consumer.**
Educate yourself on proper tree care techniques. Research reliable sources of information at the library or on the internet. Visit www.treesaregood.com or www.yourleaf.org

Modified from information provided by Tony Fleischmann, Certified Arborist

For more information, visit www.yourleaf.org or call 416-413-9244.