



Tips for Selecting a Qualified Tree Care Company

- 1. Only hire an ISA certified arborist.**

Experience, education and a good reputation are essential. Always 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 (ISA) at 1-888-463-2316 or visit www.isaontario.com or www.treesaregood.com.
- 2. Beware of door-knockers.**

This is common after storms or when pressing issues, such as the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB), 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 who uses proper and safe equipment.
- 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 companies to make certain the policies are 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 the company's past work and talk to former clients if possible.
- 6. Never be rushed or pressured into "bargains."**

Obtain more than one estimate and be willing to pay for them. Be aware that the lowest bid does not necessarily lead to the best service.
- 7. Be an informed consumer.**

Educate yourself on proper tree care techniques. A good source of consumer information can be found at www.treesaregood.com or www.yourleaf.org.

Modified from information provided by Tony Fleischmann, ISA Certified Arborist



Options For My Ash Tree

If you have an ash tree in your yard, we recommend that you visit our website or your municipal and/or regional forestry department's website to determine what local programs exist surrounding the control of EAB and what measures are in place regarding trees planted on publicly owned land (including boulevard trees). In addition, we recommend you consult with a certified ISA arborist to determine if your tree is infected with EAB and to help with the decision-making process once diagnosis has been made.

If your tree appears to be healthy...

TREATMENT

While infested ash trees will succumb to the pest, it is possible that healthy ash trees that are not yet infested may benefit from treatment. At present time, TreeAzin™ is the only product registered for use in Canada against EAB that in some cases may be able to slow or prevent infestation in individual trees. If your ash tree appears to be healthy, you may want to consider asking an ISA certified arborist to assess whether the tree may respond positively to TreeAzin™ injections. To find a licensed TreeAzin™ applicator in your area, contact Bioforest Technologies Inc. at 1-888-236-7378 or visit www.bioforest.ca.

Remember: A qualified company will be frank about treatments for your ash tree. Treatment options are very limited so the tree will either have to be removed (at some point) or treated with TreeAzin™ injections. Annual pruning, fertilizing or any other similar procedures will not help your ash tree resist the borer or prolong life. Be wary of companies that suggest such options.

If your tree is infested...

REMOVAL

In both the City of Toronto and York Region, infested trees that are located on front-yard road allowances will be removed by municipal/regional forestry staff and replaced at no cost to homeowners. Please visit your municipal and/or regional forestry department website to learn more about by-laws surrounding tree removals on private property and determine if you are required to apply for a permit prior to removing your tree. In some cases, where the tree is already dead or terminally diseased (as verified by an arborist report), a permit may not be required or permit fees may be waived.

Plant trees and shrubs through LEAF

Our residential tree planting program offers residents of Toronto and York Region native trees, shrubs and native garden kits at a subsidized cost. LEAF arborists help residents make an informed decision on the type of tree that best suits their individual property and where it should be planted.

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