



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, visit the International Society of Arboriculture <http://www.treesaregood.org>
- 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 how workers will respond if they encounter wildlife.**

Birds and other wildlife may be nesting or taking refuge in tree trunks or branches. Responsible companies should check the tree prior to initiating any tree care and will have a plan on how to avoid disrupting wildlife or how to ensure wildlife safety if disruptions are unavoidable.
- 5. 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.
- 6. Request a list of local references.**

Look at the company's past work and talk to former clients if possible.
- 7. 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.
- 8. Be an informed consumer.**

Educate yourself on proper tree care techniques. A good source of consumer information can be found at <http://www.treesaregood.org>.