

# TIPS ON HIRING AN ARBORIST

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As with most professions, tree care specialists vary in the quality and type of service they provide. Because this field is highly specialized, the general public is often confused as to the needs, procedures, and cost associated with proper tree maintenance. The following steps should assist you in securing quality tree work. Although using these procedures will not guarantee reputable work, they will greatly improve your knowledge of and confidence in the company you select.

- Check with your local Tree Commission for any regulations or assistance your municipality may administer.
- Look in your local phone book under “Tree Care” or “Tree Service” for firms in your area. Someone that advertises tree topping is a red flag to avoid that company.
- Topping is not a good tree care practice.
- Get more than one written estimate based on the same service. Remember, the lowest price is not always the best.
- Ask to see a copy of the company’s liability insurance and worker’s compensation certificate for all employees doing work, covering their workers on your property.
- Ask for references and addresses of similar, previous work. Go and see the completed work.
- Ask if the company is a current member of a professional arboriculture organization. The International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) and the Tree Care Industry Association (TCIA) are the most common in this area.
- Ask if the company employs Certified Arborists. The ISA provides, on a voluntary basis, a rigorous test for arborists on their knowledge of tree care and safety. Individuals, not companies, are eligible for certification.

**Do Not Allow Arborists to Use Tree Spikes to Climb!  
Never Top Trees!**