



HIRING A TREE SERVICE

We do not recommend specific vendors. You may want to seek recommendations from neighbors, friends, or business associates who have had professional tree care work done in the past. We do recommend that you hire a Certified Arborist.

Avoid companies that advertise “topping.” This is an antiquated pruning method that severely damages the tree, jeopardizes tree health, creates a safety hazard, and it is no longer an industry-accepted pruning practice.

We recommend that you get a minimum of **three** (3) estimates. Try to arrange a face-to-face meeting with the arborist when he/she first comes to your property. When you meet with the arborist:

- Ask to **see** current certificates of liability and workers’ compensation insurance, if applicable.
- Ask for references and check on the quality of their work.
- Don’t be rushed by a bargain, **don’t pay in advance**, and **do** get another estimate (we recommend three total) or opinion of the needed work.
- Get estimates in **writing**. Agree to a written work order only.
- Insist on a signed contract as to cost, dates when work is to be performed, and specifically what will be done.
- Insist that climbing spikes are used **only** if the tree is to be cut down; they damage living trees.
- Make sure that the company you hire has a City of Aspen business license.

Ask if they have an ISA (International Society of Arboriculture) Certified Arborist on their crew. A Certified Arborist is a tree care specialist dedicated to excellence in the field of Arboriculture. After passing a written exam, a Certified Arborist must keep abreast of new technology and practices by attending seminars and reviewing the latest publications to obtain Continuing Education Credits to maintain certification.

Certified Arborists are educated and trained in the following:

- Diagnosis and treatment of your tree and shrub related problems.
- Proper pruning and management techniques for your valuable trees and shrubs.
- Understanding tree biology.
- Recognizing certain tree hazards and construction damage.
- Identifying and selecting the appropriate trees and shrubs for your landscape.
- Installation and establishment of trees and shrubs to enhance your landscape.
- Understanding the delicate soil/water relationships which affect tree and shrub health.
- Nutrition requirements and fertilization techniques.

This information is referenced from the National Arborist Association and the International Society of Arboriculture. A good website to get consumer tree care information is: treesaregood.com