



Every year calls are received from residents asking to recommend a tree service company. Because of the current emerald ash borer infestation many door to door tree companies are working in the area. Many times they are offering low prices if you hire them that day and they may be prepared to do the work as soon as you give the OK. Remember that if it sounds too good to be true it probably is. Don't make a hasty decision. Be a good consumer by asking if they have a certified arborist on their crew and if they are insured. Ask to see proof.

- There is an art and a science to pruning a tree. Knowing tree biology is necessary to properly remove a branch, and knowing which branches to remove to best compliment the form of a tree is an art.
- An arborist that is certified has proven that they have an understanding about how trees grow and a dedication to the high standards set for the industry by the International Society of Arboriculture.
- A certified arborist is up to date on the latest techniques in tree care and will give you the best value for your money.

WHAT IS A CERTIFIED ARBORIST?

An arborist by definition is an individual who is trained in the art and science of planting, caring for, and maintaining individual trees. ISA arborist certification is a nongovernmental, voluntary process by which individuals can document their base of knowledge. It operates without mandate of law and is an internal, self-regulating device administered by the International Society of Arboriculture. Certification provides a measurable assessment of an individual's knowledge and competence required to provide proper tree care.

Certification is not a measure of standards of practice. Certification can attest to the tree knowledge of an individual but cannot guarantee or ensure quality performance.

Certified Arborists are individuals who have achieved a level of knowledge in the art and science of tree care through experience and by passing a comprehensive examination developed by some of the nation's leading experts on tree care. Certified Arborists must also continue their education to maintain their certification.

SELECTING A TREE SERVICE COMPANY

Good advice for anyone who is looking to select a tree company is:

- Check for membership in professional organizations like the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) and Tree Care Industry Association (TCIA).
- Check for ISA certification. Every certified arborist has a card with an identification number. You can also visit treesaregood.com and select "contact a certified arborist".
- Ask for proof of insurance and then phone the insurance company to verify.
- Ask for references. A good reputation is important in the tree care industry.
- Get more than one estimate.
- Don't always take the lowest price. Examine their credentials and references. Keep in mind, once branches are removed from a tree, they cannot be fixed if it is done wrong.

Unfortunately, there are many low ball tree companies doing tree malpractice every day. The consumer needs to be aware and follow proper steps to find a qualified Tree Service Company.