

# Tips for Hiring an Arborist

In the City of Aurora, any person or company performing tree work for hire is required to possess an Arborist license and a business license. Arborist licensing is administered through the Forestry Division.

To assist you in selecting a licensed tree care professional, the following tips may be helpful.

- Check with the City Forestry office about the license status of the company. Licensing ensures that tree companies possess a certain level of skill, knowledge and expertise. In addition, licensing requires that insurance be kept up to date. Call the Forestry office at 303-739-7177 to check on the license status of a prospective company.
- Beware of “Door- Knockers”. Most reputable tree care companies have all the work they can handle without going door-to-door. Door-knockers are especially common after storms when non-professionals see a chance to earn some quick money. Often, storm damage creates high-risk situations for both workers and homeowners, and there is opportunity for property damage if work is done improperly. Anyone can list themselves in the yellow pages or print a business card or flyer.
- Ask for a written proposal that lists all the work to be performed, including clean up and hauling of tree debris. Do not pay for the work until you are satisfied that all items have been completed.
- Ask to see their proof of insurance, including general liability, worker’s compensation and property damage protection. Call the company’s insurance provider and check that the insurance is current and up to date. Under some circumstances, you can be held financially responsible if an uninsured worker is hurt on your property, or property damage occurs to a neighboring property.
- Ask for local references. Reputable companies generally have this information right at hand. Take a look at some of the work done by the company or talk to former clients. Experience, education and a good reputation are signs of a reliable arborist.
- Get more than one opinion or estimate. Reputable tree companies offer free estimates and written proposals before work is performed. Get several estimates and compare the services provided by each company before hiring one of them.
- Never be rushed by “bargain prices” or pay for tree work in advance. Disreputable companies often say things like “If you sign an agreement today, I can take ten percent off of the price”. The number one complaint received concerns people who pay for tree work in advance and either the work is partially done or not performed at all. Rarely will a person who takes money in advance return phone calls.

**If you have questions, or need more information, call the Forestry Division at 303-739-7177.**



City of Aurora  
Parks, Recreation & Open Space (PROS)  
*The Quality of Life Department*