

How to select an arborist

Having your tree pruned from time to time can help to maintain the tree's health and can increase the value of your property. Here are some hints to help you find the right arborist (tree pruning business) to prune your trees. Also, if you plan on having a tree removed, this guide is just as important. Removing trees and limbs from over structures can be very technical work.

- 🌳 Know how you want your tree pruned before you get an estimate. To maximize the health of your tree you should have it pruned correctly. Once you know how you want your tree pruned give the arborist specific instruction for pruning the tree. Of course, you may not be able to tell them specifically which limbs to cut, but try to tell them generally if you want the tree dead-wooded, thinned, or pruned in another way.
- 🌳 Beware of arborists that go door-to-door looking for work.
- 🌳 Avoid hiring an arborist that is known for topping trees or tries to talk you into having your tree topped. Some other terms that arborists use for topping are pollarding, heading back, crew-cut, and cutting the crown even.
 - NOTE: Topping trees is a poor way of temporarily making a tree that needs to be removed safe. If the tree survives, it obviously will grow back out again, making future maintenance or removal costs higher.
- 🌳 Ask for references from other customers and for credentials. If you live in Evansville, have them show you their "Tree Pruner's License." Arborists have to have a license to operate within the city of Evansville.
- 🌳 Get estimates from more than one arborist. You will want to pay a low price, but keep in mind that the cheapest job is not always the best job.
- 🌳 Get an agreement in writing. If they refuse to sign, then it is an indication that they are not trustworthy. Make sure that the agreement has a statement that you do not want your tree topped, headed back, cut even, pollarded, or any other form of topping.
- 🌳 Make sure the arborist has insurance and get a Certificate of Insurance from them. You should even call their insurance company to see if their policy is still active.
- 🌳 If a tree company claims they are bonded, get proof. Bonding, for tree pruners, is job specific. There is no such thing as a "blanket bonding" for tree companies for any work that they do. If they do get a bond for work on your property, get proof.
- 🌳 Other certifications and licenses related to their profession can show that they run a well educated business, however, always check to make sure that those certifications are still valid and up to date. If not, it may show that the business is not trustworthy.
- 🌳 Never pay the full amount for the work before the work is done and refuse to pay in full until the work is completed to your specifications.