

WHY HIRE AN ARBORIST

A professional arborist is trained in the art and science of planting, caring for, and maintaining individual trees.



While it can be tempting for some owners to do some, or all, of their own tree work, or to hire a tree worker based solely on the cost quote, there are good reasons for only hiring certified arborists who carry the personal accreditation and commitment to the arboriculture profession. Pruning or removing trees, especially large trees, can be dangerous work. Tree work should be done only by those trained and equipped to work safely in trees.



- An arborist specializes in the care of individual trees.
- Arborists are knowledgeable about the needs of trees and are trained and equipped to provide proper care. Proper tree care is an investment that can lead to substantial returns. Properly maintained trees are attractive and can add considerable value to your property while poorly maintained trees can be a significant liability.
- An arborist does not top trees and should not do it, even if requested. A professional arborist knows the alternatives to topping that will keep your tree healthy so it can be enjoyed for many years.
- An arborist will only use climbing spikes in trees that are being removed, to avoid damaging the tree's protective bark that may allow insects and disease to enter.

Hiring an arborist is a decision that should not be taken lightly. You can visit the [Trees Are Good](#) website to find ISA certified arborists that work in your area. You can also check the phone book under Arborists or Tree Service, or on the DFE webpage. For companies that employ RI licensed arborists. In addition:

- Never pay in advance. Don't be rushed by "do-it-today" bargains.

RELATED RESOURCES

[Why Hire an Arborist](#)

[Find a Local ISA Certified Arborist](#)

[Find an ASCA Consulting Arborist](#)

[Find an accredited Tree Care Industry business](#)

[Companies that employ RI Licensed Arborists](#)

- Beware of door knockers. Most reputable companies have plenty of work without going door to door. Be particularly wary of door knockers after storms as some non-professionals can end up creating risk situations and doing more damage to a storm damaged tree.
- Ask for references. Look at previous work and talk to previous clients.
- Ask for certificates of insurance, including proof of liability for personal and property damage, and workman's compensation. Call the insurance company and ask if the policy is current. In some circumstances, you can be held financially responsible if damage is done to a neighbor's property or an uninsured worker is hurt on your property.
- Ask to see the RI Arborist License for the individual doing the work. You can confirm or check their license on the DFE webpage: [RI Licensed Arborists](#)
- Shop around. Have more than one arborist look at your job and give you an estimate.

