



## Learn 10 Tips on How to Choose the Right Tree Service

### Description

Con artists and fly-by-night fraudsters abound in our sector. To avoid getting duped, take the following steps.



- What precautions should you take while hiring a tree service?
- How do you pick the best company?
- What precautions must be taken to avoid tree service scams?

Unfortunately for you and those of us trying to run legal tree businesses, our sector is full of con artists, fly-by-night crooks, and tree services that offer less than desired results.

**We want to share some of our insights with you based on our years of expertise. These should steer you in the correct direction:**

## **Policies of Insurance**

Check to see if the tree service you're thinking about hiring has adequate liability and workers' compensation insurance. All certificates of insurance should be sent directly to you from the tree service's insurance agency. Otherwise, it may be a forged certificate. You are accountable if a firm has an accident and does not have the necessary insurance. You will be required to pay for repairs to your property as well as any injuries sustained as a result of the accident.

## **BBB (Better Business Bureau)**

Check to see if the company in question is a member of the Better Business Bureau. Although the BBB is no longer as powerful as it once was, BBB accreditation is still a solid indicator of a respectable service. Find out what kind of rating the company has as well. The tree service should be in good standing with the Better Business Bureau.

## **Reputation**

Conduct some research to learn about the tree service's reputation in the community. Positive online reviews for the correct tree service should be found in various sources. Check if the company is a member of any respected trade organizations, such as the Tree Care Industry Association or the International Society of Arboriculture. How long has the company been in operation? Do they have any grievances on local forums, discussion groups, and so on? If you require additional confidence, request references from the company. Doing a little research, especially for large tasks, is usually worthwhile.

## **Too low-cost?**

If a price appears too good to be true, it most likely is. We're all looking for a good deal. However, if a tree service offers you a very low price, it could be because they:

1. Lack experience.
2. Lack the necessary insurances and certifications.
3. Aim to accomplish a portion of the project.

## **Is it too expensive?**

Similarly, if a price appears to be too excessive, respond "no thanks." Do not allow a slick salesman to persuade you that \$9000 is an acceptable price for removing a tiny oak tree in your front yard.

## Estimates from Multiple Sources

“How will I know whether a price is too high or too low?” you may wonder. We recommend getting quotes from at least three different companies. You should obtain a feel of what price is normally based on the three estimations. We encourage that you meet with each representative in person if at all possible. This will allow you to assess the company’s knowledge and professionalism. It will also allow you to ask questions and learn more about what is involved.

## Apples versus Apples

When comparing estimates, you should compare what is being offered. If one tree service provides additional services or benefits, you should consider this. For example, perhaps one tree service intends to fell the tree while another intends to remove it in sections? Felling a tree is less difficult and takes less time, but it causes greater harm to your property. On the other hand, piecing a tree down in small chunks can do less harm to your yard, but it will take more time and work, making it the more expensive alternative. This is also an excellent time to compare each company’s service, professionalism, knowledge, presentation, and so on. Remember that pricing isn’t everything; instead, follow your intuition regarding the most trustworthy firm.

## Avoid door-to-door salespeople.

Never work with door-to-door contractors, especially for large projects like tree removal. The Better Business Bureau and several district attorneys’ offices across the country often issue warnings about this. Door-to-door contractors are frequently con artists who move from town to town, preying on householders, particularly the elderly. You won’t have to worry about being trapped in a scam if you refuse to do business with them. Furthermore, deciding to perform tree work on the spur of the moment is not a good idea — there are far too many aspects to consider first.

## After a disaster, proceed with caution.

Natural calamities (or another type of disaster) frequently bring out a slew of con artists. Unfortunately, this may be the only time when a door-to-door contractor is required. If, for example, a tree falls on your house and there is no electricity, you may need to engage a passing tree service. Even in this case, make certain that you are charged a reasonable fee. There are several cases of corporations charging high fees for minor tree removal services following a hurricane, ice storm, or another natural disaster. You should also check to see if the company has the proper insurance and qualifications.

## When You’re Satisfied, Pay

Once you’ve chosen a tree service you trust, the most important guideline to remember is never to pay for tree removal or trimming projects unless you’re completely satisfied with the work. There have been numerous reports of homeowners paying in advance for a tree service project, only to never hear from the company again. One common tactic used by unscrupulous tree services is to start a project, collect money (for a variety of reasons — “I have to pay my crew,” “we need money for petrol,” “we need

payment to finish the job,” and then never return. This is especially true when it comes to stump removal. In this case, the company has removed the tree completely and then requests payment, promising to remove the stump later. The firm never returns after collecting payment. Remember, you should not pay a thing until the project is completed and satisfied with the service.

### **Category**

1. Home Services

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