



How to Choose a Tree Service Partner

✓	Checklist	Why Protect Your Investment
	Certified Arborists	Rays has a team of arborists who are trained in the art and science of caring for and maintaining trees. Certified arborists are professionals who have achieved a level of expertise and knowledge of tree care through at least three years experience and they have passed comprehensive exams prepared by the nation's leading experts on tree care.
	Membership in professional organizations	Membership in organizations such as International Society of Arboriculture (ISA), Tree Care Industry Association (TCIA), and St. Louis Arborist Association (SLAA), demonstrates a wiliness to truly understand the unique qualities of tress and the latest techniques for care.
	Proof of insurance company	A reputable tree company will have adequate personal and property damage insurance and be willing to share their information with you, including the phone number of the insurance company so you can verify coverage. Too many homeowners have been forced to pay damages caused by uninsured or underinsured contractors.
	Check references	Ask for references so you can personally talk with people who have used the tree service company and performed the type of work you're seeking. Check references or visit other worksites where the tree company has done work.
	Door to door solicitors	Watch out for people who come to your door selling you tree services. Reputable companies like Ray's rely on referrals for new business.
	Companies who promote cash payments	While the phrase "cash is king" still resonates, be careful of those companies that encourage or offer deep discounts for cash payments. Far too many landscaping and tree companies today hire illegal workers and pay cash because it's often cheaper and it allows companies to avoid paying some local, state and federal taxes. This is both illegal and dangerous for workers and property owners.