

## TIPS FOR SELECTING AN ARBORIST

Hiring a tree care provider deserves careful consideration and caution. A mistake can be expensive and long lasting, while the right choice can assure health, beauty and longer life for your trees and landscape. The following suggestions will help you select an arborist:

- Check the phone directory, usually under trees or tree care service. Listings in the directory should indicate some degree of permanence. Look for professional membership affiliations. Membership does not guarantee quality, but a lack of it may cast doubt on the company's commitment to professionalism.
- Beware of door-knockers. Most reputable companies have all the work they can handle without going door-to-door.
- Request that the sales person be an arborist or tree worker that has been certified through a program of the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA). This program is the standard of performance for appropriate training, experience and knowledge about tree care. Additionally, it is best to use an arborist that is familiar with the trees and ordinances of the City of Monterey.
- Require a certificate of insurance, including liability for personal injury and property damage (such as your house and your neighbor's), and workers compensation. Phone their insurance company to make certain each policy is current. Under some circumstances, the property owner may be held financially responsible if an uninsured worker is hurt on your property, or if damage is done to a neighbor's property!
- Ask for local references and other jobs the company or individual has done in Monterey. Experience, education and good reputation are signs of a good arborist.
- Have more than one arborist look at your job and give you a written estimate that clearly states their scope of work. Don't expect a company to lower its bid to match another's bid. Be willing to pay for the estimate if necessary. Two or more opinions and estimates are worth the extra effort.
- A good arborist will offer a wide range of services including removal, pruning, fertilizing, cabling, pest control, etc.
- A good arborist will not recommend topping except in rare circumstances (such as; crown restoration after severe physical or wind damage, or for a formal setting in a restricted space.)
- A knowledgeable arborist will not use climbing spikes if the tree is to remain in the landscape. These should be used only for tree removal.
- Beware of an arborist who is eager to remove a living tree. Removal clearly should be a last resort.

## CALIFORNIA STATE LICENSED TREE SERVICE CONTRACTORS

- Affordable Arborist Tree Care, Gary Tarnowski Owner (831) 277-7900  
P.O. Box 2035, Monterey, CA 93942  
Calif. State License #718682, \*I.S.A. Certified Arborist #WC-5324/CA
- Bindel Bradford Tree Service, Bryan Bradford Owner (831) 583-0409  
88 Paseo Hermoso, Salinas, CA 93908 Fax (831) 583-9511  
Calif. State License #757073, \*I.S.A. Certified Arborist #WC-5896 Cell (831) 998-0439
- Jerry Gates Tree Service (831) 646-8199  
24 Virginia Way, Carmel Valley, CA 93924 Cell (831) 595-1274  
Calif. State License #641098, \*I.S.A. Certified Arborist #WE-7730A
- Iverson's Tree Service (831) 625-5743  
P.O. Box 3658, Carmel, CA 93921 Fax (831) 624-7430  
Calif. State License #677370
- John Ley's Tree Service (831) 373-6332  
P.O. Box 797, Pacific Grove, CA 93950 Pager (831) 644-6466  
Calif. State License #660892
- La Sirenita Tree Service (831) 229-0269  
3251 Vista Del Camino Circle, Marina, CA 93933 Fax (831) 883-9824  
Calif. State License #931791 Email: [jesusolvera35@yahoo.com](mailto:jesusolvera35@yahoo.com)
- Native Sisters Tree Service, Jennifer Chapman, Certified Arborist/Owner (831) 247-9301  
[www.NativeSistersTreeService.com](http://www.NativeSistersTreeService.com) Tree Risk Assessor Certification #1199  
Calif. State License #932230, I.S.A. Certified Arborist #WE-7530A
- Smith Tree Service (831) 649-4343  
P.O. Box 22638, Carmel, CA 93922-0638 Fax (831) 657-0742  
Calif. State License #649998, \*I.S.A. Certified Arborist #WC-0422
- Sean Sornberger (Tree consulting only) (831) 535-2525  
1349 Ord Grove Ave., Seaside CA 93955 Email: [sean.sornberger@gmail.com](mailto:sean.sornberger@gmail.com)  
\*I.S.A. Certified Arborist # WE-7334AU
- Spencer's Tree Service (831) 624-0187  
P.O. Box 222786, Carmel, CA 93922 Fax (831) 659-7756  
Calif. State License #611814 Cell (831) 595-0294
- Thompson Wildland Management (831) 372-3796  
423 Larkin St., Monterey, CA 93940 Fax (831) 655-3585  
\*I.S.A. Certified Arborist #WE-7468A Cell (831) 277-1419
- Tope's Tree Service (831) 373-7765  
P.O. Box 51964, Pacific Grove, CA 93950 Fax (831) 625-9318  
Calif. State License #669057 \*I.S.A. Certified Arborist #WE-7621A
- Urban Lumberjacks Tree Service (831) 373-0149  
376 Corral De Tierra, Salinas, CA 93988 Fax (831) 484-1009  
Calif. State License #644238, \*I.S.A. Certified Arborist #WC-1147
- E. Valdez Tree Service (831) 394-6323  
1129 Amador, Seaside, CA 93955  
Calif. State License #659821

**SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR TIPS ON SELECTING AN ARBORIST**

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