



*Striving to enhance
the quality of life for
Indiana residents by
encouraging the
planting, maintenance
and preservation of
trees.*

Indiana Arborist Association

HIRING AN ARBORIST

Trees live longer with professional care.



<http://www.indiana-arborist.org>

The IAA is affiliated with the International Society of Arboriculture, a world-wide professional organization, dedicated to fostering a greater appreciation for trees, and promoting research technology, and the professional practice of Arboriculture.

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A tree worker who has not been properly trained as an arborist can pose risk, safety, and liability issues to homeowners.

WHAT IS AN ARBORIST?

An arborist is a professional who possesses the technical competence gained through experience and related training to provide for or supervise the management of trees and other woody plants in residential, commercial, and public landscapes. (ISA)

WHAT DOES AN ARBORIST DO?

- Prunes for safety to promote health, good branch structure, and overall beauty of the tree.
- Selects appropriate tree species and plants them utilizing current industry standards.
- Identifies tree pests providing responsible treatment recommendations.
- Removes trees with unacceptable risk to people or structures and trees damaged from storms.
- Works from the ground and in the tree, either by climbing, or with bucket trucks.
- Installs tree support systems and lightning protection.
- Uses air excavation tools, resistograph, and other equipment for technical tree diagnosis.

ASK AN ARBORIST BEFORE YOU HIRE:

1. What professional organizations do you belong to?

Answer(s): Indiana Arborist Association
International Society of Arboriculture
Tree Care Industry Association
American Society of Consulting Arborists
Utility Arborist Association
Society of Municipal Arborists.



2. Are you or your tree crews ISA Certified Arborists?

Explanation: A Certified Arborist is one who has met the eligibility requirements of experience and education in arboriculture and passed the ISA Certification Exam. Valid for three years, the arborist must maintain their certification by accumulating continuing education units in arboriculture. Credentials and services of Certified Arborists can be verified at the IAA website.

3. Would you please show me proof of insurance?

Explanation: Uninsured tree care companies can create liability issues for the homeowner who can be held liable for damages.

4. Could you show me your permit or license to work in this community?

Explanation: Call city officials to see if licensing is required in the community.

5. Can you please provide a list of local references and sites where you have done tree work?

Explanation: Be aware that hiring a Certified Arborist does not guarantee the work will be done properly. Always ask for references and locations where previous work has been done for your review.

WHAT ABOUT LICENSING?

- There are no laws in Indiana that require anyone performing tree care work be a licensed arborist.
- Some municipalities require that arborists working in their community obtain a licensing permit to work on public and private trees.

GOOD ARBORISTS:

- Do not top trees.
- Do perform all tree work based on American National Standards Institute (ANSI A 300).
- Do wear personal protection equipment such as safety glasses, hardhat, ear protection, and chainsaw chaps.
- Do not climb trees with spikes unless trees are being removed.
- Do have access to much more equipment to do the job right rather than just a chainsaw and a pickup truck.
- Do not go door to door and offer deals on tree work.
- Do provide an estimate and description of work to be done -including the clean up-in a contract.

