

City of Des Moines Public Service Message

Why Hire a Certified Arborist to Work on Your Trees?

An arborist is a specialist in the care of individual trees. Hiring an arborist is a decision that should not be taken lightly. Proper tree care is an investment that can lead to substantial returns. Well-cared-for trees are attractive and can add considerable value to your property. Poorly maintained trees can be a significant liability. Tree work should be done only by those trained and equipped to work safely in trees. The following are excerpts from the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) Trees are Good website:

When selecting an arborist,

- check for ISA arborist certification. Certified Arborists are experienced professionals who have passed an extensive examination covering all aspects of tree care.
- ask for proof of insurance and then phone the insurance company if you are not satisfied. Many home owners have had to pay out large amounts of money for damages caused by uninsured individuals claiming to be tree experts. You could be held responsible for damages and injuries that occur as a result of the job.
- check for necessary permits and licenses. Be sure they comply with any local, state, or national laws that govern their work.
- ask for references to find out where the company has done work similar to the work you are requesting.
- be wary of individuals who go door to door and offer bargains for performing tree work. Most reputable companies are too busy to solicit work in this manner. Improper tree care can take many years to correct itself, and in some cases, it can never be corrected. Are you willing to take that risk with your valuable investment?
- keep in mind that good arborists will perform only accepted practices. For example, practices such as topping a tree, removing an excessive amount of live wood, using climbing spikes on trees that are not being removed, and removing or disfiguring living trees without just cause are unnecessary.
- get it in writing. Most reputable arborists have their clients sign a contract. Be sure to read the contract carefully. Don't be afraid to ask questions, such as
 - When will the work be started and completed?
 - Who will be responsible for clean-up?
 - Is this the total price? Does it include stump removal cost?
 - If I would like more to be done, what is your hourly rate?



Be an Informed Consumer

One of the best methods to use in choosing an arborist is to educate oneself about basic principles of tree care. (www.treesaregood.org)

This public service message is brought to you by the
City of Des Moines.

**We care about keeping our urban forest thriving
and beautiful**



Seeking Adoptive Homes for Trees



When you adopt a newly planted tree in front of your house, you'll enjoy these benefits:

- Improved air quality
- Barrier to noise and dust
- Higher property value
- Reduced cooling/heating bills
- Shade on sunny days
- Protection from wind and sun
- Reduced crime
- Added color and beauty
- Connection to nature
- Increased community pride

If you request that a tree(s) be planted at the curb in front of your property, and commit to regular watering during establishment, the City of Des Moines will plant an appropriate species absolutely free of charge. Together we can make a huge difference in our community. Call our Public Works 24-hour Customer Service Center at 283-4950 to **request your spring street tree planting**.

We are looking for some great tree volunteers!

Volunteer Training: The City of Des Moines and Trees Forever are partnering to provide classroom instruction about trees and tree issues. Topics range from benefits of trees, urban tree stressors, and tree identification, to small tree care, planting, and advocacy. Be one of the first to experience this 3-evening tree education series in February 2012, and become part of the Des Moines sustainable green community movement.

Contact: Leslie Berckes, Trees Forever Field Coordinator
(515) 681-2295 LBerckes@treesforever.org



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