

Choosing an arborist

Tree work is complicated and needs a high degree of technical competence, training and experience to be done correctly. This means you will need a professional to do the job.

Anyone can call themselves a tree surgeon (arborist). This does not guarantee the quality of their work or that it will be carried out safely.

If tree work is not carried out correctly, it could result in injury to you or the arborist; damage to your property, or damage to the tree.

Reputable tree care experts will be happy to show you copies of their insurance, qualifications and professional memberships so don't be afraid to ask to see these. You should also enquire if they are willing to provide a written quotation and can they provide and references for their previous work. If they cannot or will not provide these items, do not employ them.

When you receive a quote, check that it includes the following:

- reference to British Standard BS3998:2010
- clear and full details of the work to be undertaken
- what will happen to the waste
- whether VAT is included or not
- who will be responsible for obtaining permission (if the trees are protected)
- what steps will be taken to protect you and your property.