

TREE AND STUMP REMOVAL

Certifications listed by services I consulted with:

- Maryland Tree Expert License
<http://dnr.maryland.gov/forests/programapps/newtreeexpert.asp>

Who must have a license?

All tree care professionals practicing in Maryland must obtain a license. Without a license, they may not practice or advertise tree care services in the state. To obtain a license, the applicant must possess adequate and related college education plus one year of experience under a LTE or have five years experience under a Licensed Tree Expert (LTE), then have passed an exam and carry adequate amounts of liability and property damage insurance. The license must be renewed annually every January.

I was told that the online list of tree experts is not always up to date. It is better to call to see if a tree service company is licensed. There seem to be many services that do not have this certification. Because of our immediate need to have the trees removed, I decided to go with groups who had this certification.

- MHIC - Maryland Home Improvement Commission
- ICPI - Interlocking Pavement Institute

Two services that I spoke with that were licensed:

Icabods Tree Experts

1551 Manchester Road

Westminster, MD 21157

410-259-2318/301-928-8822

Maryland Tree Expert Lic. #1026

www.IcabodsTree.com

Ken Lazorchak, Sales Manager

301-928-8822

ken@icabodstree.com

Would be interest in speaking with HOA regarding group rate. Does not usually fill holes with topsoil or seed/sod, but I think they would provide this option with a group contract.

Kuhn's Tree Service, Inc.

P.O. Box 4178

Silver Spring, MD 20914

Phone: 301-384-4724

Phone: (301) 654-1642

Fax: 301-384-6803

Maryland Tree Expert Lic. #476

Ken Kuhn

1220 Briggs Chaney RD

www.kuhnstreeservice.com

Ken Kuhn is interested in talking with HOA about group rate. We used Kuhn's to take down the 3 trees. They were finished in an hour and the clean up was great. Their equipment was powerful enough to handle the job easily. They will return to remove the stumps. One reason that we chose Kuhn's was that they would fill the hole with topsoil and sod the areas (\$100 additional charge for topsoil and sod.). Sod is more costly than seed. They also will grind out roots that are visible above ground.

Another service that has other certifications:

Hometown Landscape and Lawn Service

MHIC and ICPI

2400 Kaywood Lane

Silver Spring, MD 20905-6409

301-572-5577

John Polizos

www.hometownlandscape.com

Does tree and stump removal. I'm not sure if Hometown Landscape is licensed as MD Tree Experts, or if they need to be. I told John that the HOA may try to get a group rate for tree and stump removal and he was very interested. If HOA would want MD Tree Expert Certification, I'm sure that he would complete the \$30.00 application, if he has not already. He came off as very professional, knowledgeable and personable. We are considering using them for our landscaping project.

Finally, the HOA may want to set up different options that include the main tree and stump removal services, with options of topsoil and seed or sod. Topsoil and seed would be easy to people to do on their own. They may prefer that their usual lawn service complete this final step to make sure they have the same type of seed as the rest of their lawn. It seems important that the company has access to a stump grinder that has the necessary power for the job. Rented stump grinders are usually not powerful enough, as was pointed out to me by Hometown Landscaping. Of course, proof of insurance is essential.