

Make the Right Decision When Choosing a Tree Company

The Mountain Pine Beetle continues to negatively impact our forests at an alarming rate, but there are steps Summit County residents can take to protect their remaining pine trees. Preventive tree spraying has shown results and Beetle Bloc, a new, eco-friendly product, is something homeowners can install themselves. Trees that have already succumbed to the Pine Beetle should be removed for safety reasons. As a homeowner, town or homeowner's association prepares to hire a tree company, there are some significant things to consider: the importance of hiring a licensed and insured company, and the quality of their services.

Protect Yourself

Hire an experienced, licensed company that has liability and workmen's comp insurance. Ask to see the company's liability and workmen's comp insurance certificate, and if they don't provide it, consider the liability that might fall on you, the homeowner, if an accident occurs while they are on your property. These safeguards are quite expensive so companies without them are able to give you a lower bid, but keep the following in mind:

- If an uninsured worker gets hurt on your property or drops a tree on your neighbor's house, you may be responsible.
- If an unlicensed applicator spills chemicals that find their way into your neighborhood's drinking water you may be responsible.
- Ask for a copy of your contractor's commercial applicators license for spraying.

Locals Serving Locals = Customer Service

Truly locally owned companies are more likely to provide quality services because the long-term success of their business depends on it. In addition, each dollar you spend at an independent, local business returns at least three times more money to our local economy than one spent with a company based out of the community.

It is not safe or wise to assume that that a company listed in the yellow pages is insured, experienced, customer service-driven or locally owned. All tree companies and bids are not equal so be a wise consumer, ask questions and choose a quality, locally owned and insured company!

*This information is provided by **Alpine Tree Services**, serving Summit County for eight years, truly locally owned and owner operated, and dedicated to quality, professional service. **AlpineTreeServices.com** is a great source of information on Mountain Pine Beetle and offers a complete list of their services. Also find complete information on the new, eco-friendly, owner-installed Beetle Block and purchase it directly from the website. Contact owners Jake Fiala and Casey Snyder for a free estimate at 970-389-4964.*