

## BLOG POST #1

Local Reviews and Ratings: What are the best tree service companies in Virginia Beach and Chesapeake.

Since 2006, our team at The Whole 9 Tree Service has met with hundreds of great customers in the Hampton Roads area. These jobs have ranged from giving price estimates to performing tree removals, stump grinding, tree trimming, tree care/maintenance and professional tree installations. Our crew is passionate about learning new safety techniques while using state-of-the-art tree maintenance equipment.



Due to our strong industry ties, we are often asked about the local competition in the Virginia Beach and Chesapeake area. Don't worry -- we are never offended. And we understand that it's human nature to shop around when getting tree service estimates. Whenever our customers ask about "the other guys," we are more than happy to give real, honest feedback about our competitors. With that said, I wanted to publish an article, answering this commonly asked question:

"What are some of the other reputable tree maintenance and landscaping companies in the area?"

This is a really good question because with all the tree services out there, it is hard to know if you are hiring a quality tree care company or not.

Below (in no particular order) are a list of tree service companies that I will back (completely unsolicited) for their respectable work throughout this area.

1. Arbor Tree Care, Inc. - They are a well-established company. We have seen their trucks around Hampton Roads for years. They have professional tree climbers with years of experience working in the area.
2. Bobcat Tree Service - Still a growing company but a strong, dependable company that is known for providing great service to their customers.
3. Grigg Brothers Tree Service - Grigg Brothers has been here in Hampton Roads for years. It doesn't take much to do a quick search and see how they have nothing but good reviews around town.
4. Mike Newell's Tree Service - Great tree service. Still growing and the sky is the limit. I have

climbed for many companies in this town and Mike's Tree Service is by far my favorite. They are professional, classy, and this company has a great track record working with customers.

5. Sweat Bros. Tree Surgery - Established company with good climbers and top of the line equipment.

6. Bishops Tree Service - Biggest locally owned tree service that I am aware of to date. They use great equipment combined with experienced climbers to get the job done right.

7. Smith's Tree Care - Great all around tree service. Great equipment and climbers. Owner is a good guy.

8. Tree Busters - Not the biggest tree service but extremely professional and well run. Tree Busters is known for their great track record of quality work.

There you have it -- 8 reputable companies that I would recommend if you are looking for estimates on tree removals, maintenance, stump grinding, etc.

As I have said before to so many of our customers, estimates will vary from company to company, especially depending on what services you request. I never frown on our customers for shopping around to find the company that fits their needs the best.

I hope that this information helps you make an educated decision and that you will ultimately receive exceptional service from whatever tree service company you decide to hire. Our team is always available to answer your questions. And we will never charge for our time giving you accurate estimates (with no pressure) and friendly service.

Please note that the 8 companies I have listed above are all reputable companies based on our expert market knowledge. If you have experienced something different, please feel free to share this information with us (in a professional manner) in the comments section below. We believe it's important to always be open and honest while giving credit to those who are deserving of it. That is the way we will always operate here at The Whole 9 Tree Service. And, as always, please give us a call if you have any questions.

We love hearing from you as we strive to provide the highest quality of service for you and your family. I hope your next tree service experience will be an exceptional one.- Trevor Hunt (Now back to running The Whole 9 Tree Service).

## BLOG POST #2

### Always Hire a Professional Tree Service

Researching a tree service on the internet can very quickly become overwhelming. There are so many options! Who is reliable? Experienced? Trustworthy? Affordable?

Although of course we recommend ourselves to cater to your tree care needs, we understand that you have many options and factors to consider. We'd like to provide with some basic buying tips when you are making a decision.



#### **1) Be wary of anyone who is not a full-time, professional tree climber.**

There are a large number of jack-of-all-trade type contractors that are happy to take your business. But climbing and cutting down trees dangerous work that can easily go awry when not performed by someone well versed in tree cutting and culling techniques. What you may save up front may cost you in damage to your yard, home, and sanity.

#### **2) When you hire a tree service, make sure they are properly licensed and insured.**

This information should be on their website or they should be able to give you a copy. If the vendor you are considering cannot immediately furnish this documentation when prompted, consider this a giant red flag and continue your search elsewhere.

#### **3) When getting a price, if it sounds almost too good to be true, it very well could be.**

We have helped many people in the Hampton Roads area who have had the misfortune of placing their trust in a vendor that grossly undercut the competition. In these case the tree work was only partially completed when the vendor demanded full payment. Once the money was given, the vendor disappeared. We hate seeing these situations so I would like to stress that if you do opt for the lowest price option, please make sure you do due diligence on the history, legitimacy, and background of the company - and *never* provide payment until the job is 100% complete.

We certainly hope you to at least have a free consultation with The Whole 9 Tree Service when selecting your vendor, but more than that we want our neighbors to be treated fairly and honestly. Please follow these guidelines when selecting your tree service.

## BLOG POST #3

### How much does it cost to remove a tree?

There are many factors that go into the overall cost of removing a tree : size, location, health, risk, overall shape, surrounding structures. Some trees may cost \$150 dollars to remove from your home while others cost \$5000. Here is an in depth article about why these prices vary from tree to tree.



Every tree is different so every price is different. Most tree services have a minimum price for a tree. So if you have a 10 feet tall Bradford Pear Tree you will probably get a minimum price. What that price is varies from company to company but is usually in the neighborhood of \$150.

It may seem a little tedious, but there are many factors to think about when judging the size of a tree. The width of the trunk, the height of the tree, the width of the crown, and how crowded the crown is. Sometimes a 50 foot tree with a 1.5 foot diameter trunk will cost more than an 80 foot tree with a 2 foot diameter. This is because of the crown of the tree. Some trees grow many branches that overlap one another. This makes the job harder and more time consuming for the tree removal service.

The location of the tree is very important when factoring in the cost. A tree in the backyard will almost always be more expensive than the same tree in your front yard. It is harder to get equipment in a backyard. Maybe you have a fence with a small gate that debris has to be carried through. The further away the tree is from where your tree service provider can bring their equipment, the farther the cost goes up.

The health of a tree factors in to cost sometimes. If the tree is in an area that cannot be accessed by a bucket truck or crane then the tree must be climbed. Dead trees are dangerous to climb and the more dangerous the work the more expensive it is to remove the tree.

The surrounding area of the tree is a big factor to assess when getting a quote to cut down a tree. If the tree is near and/or hanging over structures like your home, shed, patio, pool, driveway etc. then the tree must be cut down branch by branch using ropes to lower the limbs down. Obviously this takes time and the longer it takes to cut down a tree the higher the price will be.

Most tree services will execute a job with around 4 guys. One man climbing and performing the cutting down of the tree, 2 guys hauling debris to a place it can be processed and one man running the equipment(chipper, bobcat, dump truck). The average tree company will try to get around \$200 - \$300(depending on risk) per hour for his guys to be working on your tree. This money will cover his labor fees, gas fees, dump fees, and general overhead(liability for the business, insurance on the trucks, maintenance for his heavy equipment, advertising for his

business, taxes, etc.) This may seem expensive but you might be surprised at how much an efficient, well run tree service can accomplish in an hour.

### Even Removing A Small Tree Can Be Challenging Without The Right Equipment

Thinking about putting on the gloves and taking down that small tree by yourself? Be careful - what is considered a small tree job can still be a technical take-down. Removing a tree safely takes skill and know-how, no matter the size. Also, removing debris is almost always more work than it looks like, especially for a homeowner. Most people who own a chainsaw can figure out a way to cut down a small tree even if it is close to their house - but after the first time someone does it they generally opt to just call the professionals next time.

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