



Hiring a Professional Landscape Contractor

Presented by *Matt Donberger, Governance Committee Chair*

Landscape professionals:

- Design all kinds of landscape elements.
- Install landscapes: trees, shrubs, turf, perennials, annuals.
- Maintain landscapes: mow, aerate, fertilize, prune, apply pesticides.
- Install and maintain sprinkler systems.
- Build hardscapes: patios, decks, walls, water features.

Landscape professionals will:

- Be current on new products, equipment and trends.
- Know Colorado's climate, soil conditions, and horticulture specifics.
- Maintain proper insurances, licenses and permits.
- Have satisfied clients who you can talk to.

Choosing a Contractor:

- Do your homework.
- What are the project requirements?
- Define your project: is it for construction, maintenance or enhancements?
- Determine your budget?
- How will the landscape be used?
- Make appointments to review a prospective firm's portfolio.
- Ask:
 - Company background and how long they have been in business.
 - Employee background and certifications held by staff.
 - How do they incorporate *Best Management Practices*?
 - What professional affiliations does the company hold?
 - Does the firm intend to use subcontractors? How will that work?
 - How are the design fees structured?
 - What is the payment schedule?
 - Get a proposal and contract in writing with:
 - Scope of Work
 - Payment schedules.
 - Proof of liability and workers' compensation insurances.
 - Get references

- Talk to past and current customers to determine contactor liability, timeliness and work habits.
- Did contractor honor the contract and respond to concerns?
- Would customer hire the firm again?

How to Find a Contractor:

- Get referrals from colleagues, property managers

For further information visit www.alcc.com.