



ECO-FRIENDLY GUIDE TO HIRING A

Professional

for Pest Control and Maintenance

to reduce the chemical exposure to people and the environment, ask for pest control services that are natural, organic, or least toxic.

*did you
know....*

*Fertilizers and pesticides can be washed away by rainwater to pollute creeks or groundwater.

*Landscape chemicals are commonly found in springs and watersways.

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Your Service Professional Should...

Communicate the following to you before work starts

- *What the problem is and how it will be treated
- *How long the treatment period will take
- *What results can be expected
- *What is guaranteed and what is not
- *Whether products used present any hazards to people or pets

Your Service Professional Should...

- *Begin with a thorough inspection to identify the source of the problem
- *Offer replacement alternatives for poorly placed or disease prone plants
- *Use physical pest controls such as traps and barriers when possible
- *Use biological pest controls
- *Never apply chemical spays to prevent infestations

Pest Control Tips...

- *With monthly service contracts, make sure that pests are monitored regularly but treated only when there is a problem
- *Be wary of pest management professionals who seem anxious to sell a treatment that you didn't know you needed - ask for proof of the problem first
- *Do your part by following pest control company recommendations about cleanup, home repairs or others steps to prevent future pest problems
- *Be patient - sometimes when less toxic pest controls are used, pests will die back gradually
- *Shop value, not price; what appears to be a bargain may need a second look

When Selecting a Professional, You Should...

- *Ask how long they have been in business
- *Ask for references, then follow up by calling referrals
- *Ask about licences

Your Service Professional Should....

Maintain All Necessary Licenses

- *The state of Texas requires licenses for:
 - Applying pest and weed control chemicals
 - Installing or repairing irrigation systems
- *The state of Texas does not require licenses for:
 - Mowing
 - Tree pruning



*To stay current with new technical information, most quality oriented companies are members of a professional trade association. (check with the Texas Nursery and Landscape Association (TNLA) for referrals at (800)880-0343 or <http://txnla.org>)



100% Organic on left/chemically treated on the right



100% Organic Lawn

