

# Tips for Hiring a Landscaping Professional

**Q: How can I avoid being held liable for accidents or damage to my property?**

**A:** Make sure your landscape professional has proof of Workman's Compensation and Liability Insurance. **RAM Landscape Services, Inc. (RAM LS) does carry workman's compensation and liability insurance. These certificates are available upon request.**

**Q: How can I be sure that the company I hire will follow through and produce quality work?**

**A:** Make sure the professional you select holds a valid state license or certification from a professional organization. **RAM LS does hold a valid state license (#171976) and is certified from the Minnesota Nursery & Landscape Association.**

**Q: How do I know if the professional I want to hire is in good standing?**

**A:** You should always check a landscape professional's standing with your state or the Better Business Bureau. **RAM LS has an A- rating through the BBB.**

**Q: Will the final cost of a project be the same as what the landscape pro quoted at the beginning?**

**A:** Not always - Discuss with your designer whether the quote is a fixed price or just an estimate. Also ask how cost changes will be handled once your project is underway. Make sure you sign a contract agreeing to the circumstances. **Any costs over and above the original contract are written out and signed off on by the customer on a change order.**

**What payment options do I have when doing a landscaping project?**

**A:** These will vary so always ask how much money the company requires down to start a project and what your billing options are (full upfront, upon completion, or down payment and balance upon completion). **RAM LS requires one-third of the contract amount as a down payment. Once the materials are delivered, another third is required. The final payment will be due upon completion.**

**Q: How can I ensure that the plant material installed will thrive?**

**A:** The professional you hire should provide care instructions for the plants they have installed on your property. **RAM LS does provide care instructions for the plants installed on your property.**

**What happens if my new patio cracks or a plant dies?**

**A:** Make sure the landscaping professional you hire offers a warranty for plant material and workmanship. Be clear on how long the warranty is and what exactly is covered. **RAM LS does offer a warranty on both plant material and craftsmanship. The warranty coverage is detailed in the contract.**