

COMPARE AND DECIDE:  
 A TOOL FOR SELECTING A  
**LANDSCAPE CONTRACTOR**



**COMPANY A:**

**COMPANY B:**

**COMPANY C:**

**PROOF OF WORKERS' COMPENSATION INSURANCE**

Landscape contractors are required by law to pay WSIB premiums on behalf of their employees in the event of a workplace injury. Ask to see a Certificate of Clearance

**PROOF OF LIABILITY INSURANCE**

All contractors should carry liability insurance to protect themselves and their clients from the expense of any unforeseen workplace incidents that might cause damage to your own or neighbouring properties. Ask to see a Certificate of Insurance.

**SUPPLIER REFERENCES**

By ensuring that the contractor regularly pays material suppliers in accordance with standard trade terms, you can protect yourself from creditor liabilities. Depending on the size of the project, it is advisable to obtain up to three supplier references.

**CONTRACT**

A written and signed contract protects the interests of both homeowners and contractors. Contracts should clearly stipulate details such as payment schedules, start dates, and the complete scope of the project.

A	B	C
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
MANDATORY: RATE 5 OR 0 ONLY		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
MANDATORY: RATE 5 OR 0 ONLY		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
RATE 1 (POOR) TO 5 (EXCELLENT)		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
RATE 1 TO 5		

**WARRANTY**

The terms and conditions of the contractor's warranty should be clearly spelled out in writing and should specify if the workmanship is warranted and for how long and the length of the guarantee on materials.

**CLIENT REFERENCES**

Whether the contractor you are considering is capable of handling your project can best be determined by asking for references from up to three recent clients.

**HUMAN RESOURCES**

The number of employees, including supervisors, should be adequate for the size of the project.

**EMPLOYEE EXPERIENCE, EDUCATION AND CERTIFICATION**

Determine the level of training and experience of key and supervisory personnel. Post secondary degrees, apprenticeship program participation or certification through the Landscape Horticulture Certification Program are all indicators of skilled, committed employees.

A	B	C
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
RATE 1 TO 5		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
RATE 1 TO 5		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
RATE 1 TO 5		
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RATE 1 TO 5		

**EQUIPMENT RESOURCES**

Contractors should have adequate equipment resources to complete jobs efficiently.

**SCOPE OF EXPERTISE**

(INCLUDING SUB-CONTRACTORS)  
 Determine which specific disciplines are required for your project. The company should be skilled in all aspects or use reputable sub-contractors.

**YEARS IN BUSINESS**

How many years has the company been in business under its current name?

**COMPANY PROFILE**

Does the company project a professional image? Are its trucks and equipment clean and well cared for?

**ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP**

An accreditation procedure is part of Landscape Ontario's membership application process. Members of Landscape Ontario are required to follow a Code of Ethics and a Code of Conduct. Association membership indicates a company's commitment to professionalism.

A	B	C
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
RATE 1 TO 5		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
RATE 1 TO 5		
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RATE 1 TO 5		
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RATE 1 TO 5		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
RATE 1 TO 5		

**TOTALS TIP:**

A perfect score is 65, any total less than 49 indicates a score below 75 per cent.