

RainScapes

Choosing a Professional



When searching for a RainScapes professional, many people don't know whether to look for a **Landscape Architect**, a **Landscape Designer** or a **Landscape Contractor**.

All three provide very different services, and licensure requirements in the State of Maryland vary. Here is a general breakdown:

- **Landscape Architect.** A professional, licensed by the State of Maryland, who can design and develop construction plans, details, and specifications for a landscape based project. This typically includes detailed site assessments and grading plans, planting plans, lighting, steps, etc. For more information, to search for a landscape architect, or to determine if they are licensed in Maryland, visit:
 - State of Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation Landscape Architects Public Inquiry Search (mcgreenbiz.org/green-business-directory)
 - American Society of Landscape Architects: MD Chapter (marylandasla.org)
 - American Society of Landscape Architects: Potomac Chapter (potomacasla.org)
- **Landscape Designer.** A person who provides landscape design and horticulture services, such as container garden and planting bed design concepts, planting plans, and selection of materials. For more information and to search for a landscape designer, visit:
 - Association of Professional Landscape Designers (dcmdva-apld.org)
 - Chesapeake Conservation Landscaping Council's (CCLC) Chesapeake Bay Landscape Professionals CBLP Directory (cblpro.org/directory)
- **Landscape Contractor.** A professional, licensed by the State of Maryland, to install/construct and maintain landscapes. To install, the professional's company must have the Maryland Home Improvement Contractor license; ask for their number. For more information, to search for a landscape contractor or determine if they are licensed in Maryland visit:
 - State of Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation Home Improvement Public Inquiry Search (dlr.state.md.us/cgi-bin/ElectronicLicensing/OP_search/OP_search.cgi?calling_app=HIC::HIC_qselect)
 - MD, DC, VA Landscape Contractors Association (lcamddcva.org)
 - MD Nursery, Landscape and Greenhouse Association (mnlga.org/AF_MemberDirectory.asp)
 - Additional information for locating a qualified professional can be found on these websites: National Green Infrastructure Certification Program maintenance contractors (ngicp.org/program/list-of-certified-individuals); Chesapeake Bay Landscape Professionals (cblpro.org/directory); and the Montgomery County Green Business Certification Program (mcgreenbiz.org/green-business-directory).

Questions to ask when choosing a landscape professional:

- Are you licensed to do this work in the State of Maryland?
- Can you provide a list of references?
- What is your previous experience?
- Have you ever installed a RainScope or other stormwater project? If so, how many and what type?
- What is your experience using native plants in your designs?
- Do you have experience designing for multiple environmental benefits? List your interests.

Do your research, and you will be well on your way to helping to protect our local water quality and creating a beautiful and successful Rainscapes project to enjoy for years to come!