

Job Articles

- Resume Writing
- Interview Questions
- Sample Resumes
- Interview Tips
- Sample Cover Letters
- Salary Survey
- Work From Home
- Short Courses
- Paid Surveys

- Sponsored Links -**Home business is big business!**

Over 1 million people in Australia has some type of home-related business and this figure is getting higher. [Learn more](#)

Career Choice: Electrician

What do Electricians do?

Without these workers, there would be no lights, no computers, and no TV's plugged into our walls. Electricians bring us electricity. They put in the wires that carry electricity through houses, offices, and factories. They also fix electric machines. Electricians start by reading maps called blueprints that show how electricity flows. Blueprints show where to put wires, electrical equipment, and outlets for plugs. When working on a new building, electricians draw new blueprints.

Then, electricians put tubes or pipes inside the walls. They also put small boxes on the walls to hold switches and outlets. They pull wires through the tubes to connect the boxes and make a path for the electricity to follow. A path for electricity is called a circuit. Electricians also add circuit breakers, transformers, and other equipment to control how electricity flows. They make sure the right amount of electricity goes to the machines that use it. Electricians follow strict rules about how to wire buildings.

After they finish wiring, electricians use ohmmeters, voltmeters, and oscilloscopes to measure the amount of electricity running through the system. Electricians also install wires for telephones, computers, and fire alarms. Sometimes, they use fiber optic cable.

Maintenance electricians fix electric machines or broken wiring. Some focus on houses. They might rewire a house. Or they could replace an old fuse box with one that can run more appliances.

Some electricians work in factories. They might fix motors, generators, and electronic robots. They also inspect equipment and fix it before it breaks. They tell managers when equipment is dangerous and should be replaced. Electricians put in new electrical equipment, too.

Electricians use wire strippers, knives, hacksaws, and power tools. Some work is hard because electricians stand for a long time and climb ladders. Some electricians work in dusty, dirty, or hot places. But others work in clean places. Workers need to be careful to avoid falls, cuts, and electric shock. They need good hand-eye coordination and to be good at seeing the different colors of wire.

Some electricians work nights and weekends instead of weekdays. Some travel far to get to jobsites.

How do I prepare to become a Electrician?

Most electricians start by becoming apprentices. As apprentices, they learn on the job. They watch and listen to experienced workers. They also take classes about electricity. They get paid while they learn. After 3 to 5 years, they are fully trained and can work on their own.

Apprentices start with easy tasks like drilling holes and setting up pipe. Later, they learn to connect wires and draw diagrams of the electrical systems they build. In class, apprentices learn blueprint reading, electronics, math, safety, and rules about electricity. They also learn about welding, communications equipment, and elevators.

Even after they finish an apprenticeship, electricians still take more classes. They might learn more about telephone lines, computer lines, and other kinds of special wiring. Most electricians also need to get a license from the county where they work.

Experienced electricians can become supervisors and then superintendents. Those with management skills often start their own business.

People who don't become apprentices can start training for the job by working as helpers for electricians.

What are the earning potentials?

Weekly Earnings (full time and before tax)

- \$805 - All Ages
- \$577 - Ages 20-24

Source: ABS Employee Earnings, Benefits and Trade Union Membership, August 2003.

What are the Job prospects for Electricians?

- Very Good
- **Good** < Electrician
- Average
- Below Average
- Limited

Industry Definition

The Electrical Services industry consists of establishments mainly engaged in the installation of electrical wiring or fittings in buildings or other construction projects. Electrical work arising from the installation of appliances is included in this class. Electricians or electrical contractors are trained and licensed to install, connect, test, and maintain electrical systems for communications, climate control, security, and other purposes. Establishments in this industry also install and maintain electronic controls for industrial machinery and business equipment, install conduit for carrying wires in buildings and structures, and install coaxial cable and optic fibre cable for computer and communications purposes. Electricians also install low voltage wiring for voice, data and video systems, including telephones, computers, intercoms, fire alarms, and security systems. Electrical contractors are trained and licensed to connect wiring to circuit breakers, transformers and other components and test the connections using equipment such as ohmmeters, voltmeters, and oscilloscopes.

(Reference from an electrical industry website).