

I want to be an...Electrician

February 2021



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What do they do?

An electrician is a skilled tradesperson who lay out, assemble, install, repair, and maintains electrical systems that provide electrical power to buildings or other facilities. Although they may be self-employed, most are employed by electrical contractors and maintenance departments of buildings.

Some of their duties include:

- Install underground wirings and cables
- Troubleshoot and isolate faults in electrical systems and replace faulty components when necessary
- Interpret electrical code specifications, drawings, and circuit diagrams to determine wiring layouts for installations
- Test circuit continuity using various testing equipment to ensure safety and compatibility of the electrical system
- Connect electrical power to audio and visual communication equipment, signalling devices, and heating and cooling systems

Depending on their certification and specialty, there are several options with regards to work environment, including:

- ICI sector: Industrial, Commercial, and Institutional
- Low Rise Residential Sector: housing (excluding high rise residential buildings)
- Lineworkers: high voltage and utility

What is their salary?

In 2019, the median wage for Canadian electricians was around \$32.00 / hour. The wages vary depending on the province, with Prince Edward Island having a median wage of about \$22.00 / hour, and Alberta having a median wage of about \$36.00 / hour.

What can I do to become an Electrician?

To become a licensed electrician, it is required to complete an electrical apprenticeship of 9000 hours (approximately 5 years).

In order to get an apprenticeship, you must have completed at least grade 10; however, it's important to note that for unionized sector of electrical industry, most apprenticeship programs require completion of grade 12 with English, Math, and Physics courses completed.

Useful Links:

- Electrical Contractors Association of Ontario: <https://www.ecao.org/>
- Electrical Apprentice Training Alliance: www.electricalapprenticeship.ca
- International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers: <https://www.ibewcanada.ca/>