

SCHOOLS 2 SKILLS

ELECTRICIAN—CAREER OVERVIEW

Electricity is essential for light, power, air-conditioning and refrigeration, and without electricians, there would be no lights, no computers, and no TVs plugged into our walls. **Electricians** install, maintain and repair electrical wiring systems that are designed to provide creature comforts such as heat, light, power and telecommunications systems or safety features, such as fire and security alarms.

What might an electrician's working day look like?

Each day can be different depending on the job, and you may be involved in:

- + Installing, altering, repairing and maintaining electrical systems designed to provide heat, light, power and control
- + Installing, altering, repairing and maintaining signals or fire alarms for all types of buildings, structures and premises

As an electrician you must be able to:

- + Read and interpret electrical, mechanical and architectural drawings and electrical code specifications to determine wiring layouts
- + Cut, thread, bend, assemble and install conduits and other types of electrical conductor enclosures and fittings
- + Position, maintain and install distribution and control equipment such as switches, relays, circuit breaker panels and fuse enclosures
- + Install, replace, maintain and repair electrical systems and related electrical equipment
- + Pull wire through conduits and holes in walls and floors
- + Install data cabling, and install and maintain fibre optic systems
- + Splice, join and connect wire to form circuits, and test circuits to ensure integrity and safety

To be a successful electrician you should:

- + Be able to understand and interpret technical drawings, blueprints and plans
- + Have the ability to analyse information to trouble shoot problems
- + Enjoy keeping up with new technologies
- + Be able to distinguish colours to work with colour coded wiring
- + Have a careful, methodical and accurate approach to work
- + Have an awareness of safety issues, especially for working at heights and in confined spaces
- + Have the ability to work as part of a team and with other tradespeople
- + Be physically fit and have a good sense of balance
- + Have good reading and maths skills

SKILLS FROM SCHOOLS



Where does an electrician work?

Electricians work both inside and outside on domestic homes, commercial buildings and industrial sites.

What can the future hold?

If you're ambitious and willing to work hard, there are no limits to where a career as an electrician can take you. You can work as a sub-contractor or even start your own company. Many business owners, supervisors and senior managers in the construction industry started their careers as tradespeople.

Fantastic! How do I get started?

To become a tradesperson and get a trade certificate you'll need to complete an **apprenticeship**. For further information about gaining an apprenticeship, search Apprenticentre or call 13 19 54 or the National Electrical and Communications Association (NECA) at neca.asn.au/wa/wa_home