

Electricians



Tips for Hiring an Electrician

Questions You Should Ask

How to Hire an Electrician

How to tell if they are qualified



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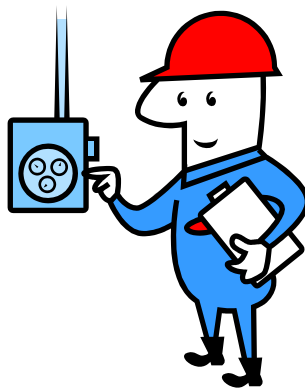
How to find a good electrician in the Nanaimo area

So you have decided it is time to bring in a professional to install, inspect or repair the electrical service in your home. Whether you are building a new home, doing a renovation or adding appliances or large item such as a hot tub, there are many things to consider when making this important decision.

Steps to finding a good electrician:

1. Check to make sure that they are licensed
2. Get two or more references
3. Ask how long they have been in business
4. Get at least one other estimate for the job so you can compare prices and parts specified
5. Find an electrician that will give you pricing for small jobs over the phone
6. Get an estimate for the work to be done with a the rates for work that may be required in additional to the work described in the estimate

The best place to start asking about electricians is with family, friends and colleagues. Other good sources of referrals include contractors, real estate agents and your local electrical supply store. When asking for referrals, be sure to check the type of job the electrician was called in to do. Also, determine if the electrician specializes in residential or commercial work.



Some good questions to ask:

- Were you happy with the quality provided by the electrical contractor?
- Did the electrician take care with all aspects of the work done on site?
- Were they courteous and polite?
- Is a warranty included?



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Think about the last time you purchased a car. Chances are you didn't go to the yellow pages, choose a dealership at random, and buy your car from the first lot you visited. Many times, though this scenario describes the way homeowners find a painter – they look in the phone book and call the painter with the largest ad or the first one listed. But much like purchasing a car, finding a qualified electrician requires research and comparison shopping.

Ask questions

How do they plan to complete the work?

Proper preparation is key in getting the job done on time, and on budget. Make sure your contractor has a clear plan and timetable for the work that needs to be done.

Ask for an estimate

Invite electricians to look at the job and ask for a written estimate. In the estimate also ask them to specify the time it will take to complete the job. If you are having a major renovation done it's hard to live in a house that is being taken apart and put back together. Make sure the contractors are quoting the same specifications – work to be done, parts and schedules.



Use a Contract

A contract is a great way to put in writing the work to be done, costs, payment terms, start date and estimated completion date.



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Things to Look for in a Qualified Electrician

There are a number of qualifications which can set a professional painter apart.

- Insurance – Be sure that the prospective electrician you are considering, is fully insured, having both workman's compensation and liability insurance.
- Better Business Bureau – Contact your local Better Business Bureau to ascertain if any complaints have been filed against your potential electrician

Safety Commitment

Accidents can happen with almost any home improvement project. So ask your prospective electrician what steps he or she will take to prevent injuries and property damage. Again if an electrician is good at his work he or she will be able to answer this question with ease. They have attention to detail and are cognizant of this when working.

Clean up

Ask the electrician how he or she intends to leave the work area once the job is completed. You don't want to be cleaning up after an electrician for hours after they have left your home. Also ask about disruption of electrical service during the project.

Tips

Small business electricians will usually be more affordable because their overhead is lower

If it's a big job, ask a number of electricians and discard the cheapest and most expensive options. The cheapest will have underestimated and will sting you for it later and the most expensive doesn't really want your business, probably because they have lots of work already.



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