



5 Things to Look out for When Hiring an Electrician

If you are in need of [electrical work](#), the last thing you want to do is to tackle things yourself. However, you may be tempted to do so, simply because you find the idea of hiring an electrician too taxing. Finding the right electrician is really not all that difficult when you follow these easy steps.

#1. Determine what type of electrician you need

There are two basic categories of electricians: master and journeyman. A [master electrician](#) is one who has at least two years of experience and has passed a licensing exam. A journeyman is also licensed, but has not yet met the requirements to become a master electrician. Master electricians have a higher hourly rate, but are more familiar with code and better suited for bigger projects such as a home remodel. Journeymen on the other hand may be your best option if you are needing only minor repairs.

#2. Review electricians in your area

Start by looking at the websites of some [local electricians](#) to get a feel for what each company is like. Look for businesses whose websites have a natural flow and contain informative, well-written content. Stay away from any with bad designs, poor graphics, or grammatical errors. Make a list of three or four companies that seem appealing, and then look for recent reviews to see what the experience of others has been.

#3. Verify licensing and insurance information

Check with your local department of licensing and professional regulation or similar agency to determine whether or not a particular electrician is licensed. This agency should be able to tell you the date an individual first became licensed, as well as when a license expires. Once you have verified licensing information, check with your state's department of insurance to find out the amount and type of any general liability and worker's compensation insurance.

#4. Obtain and compare quotes

Obtain quotes from at least three qualified contractors. Make sure each estimate provides a detailed account of your job, including a full list of materials. Do not make your decision based upon hourly rate alone, but instead consider experience and quality of work when choosing which estimate to go with.

#5. Seal the Deal

Once you have decided on a contractor, you are then ready to finalize the deal. Make sure you are both in agreement as to when work will start and when it will be completed. Don't be afraid to ask for a timeline in writing if you are working on an especially big project. Obtain a written guarantee for your work as well as a list of procedures to follow should you ever develop a problem with it in the future.

Choosing just any electrician out of a phone book is not ideal for a number of reasons. Careful selection is very important, which is why you should keep the above advice in mind. In the long run, your efforts will pay off by providing you with high-quality work at an affordable price.