

Occupations and Workplaces

Electrician

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What does an electrician do?

Electricians work in commercial, industrial, or residential settings. Some of their main duties are to:

- Install, repair and maintain electrical systems.
- Conform to electrical, building, and fire codes, and other regulations.
- Read, prepare or interpret blueprints and drawings.
- Prepare cost estimates and documentation for clients.
- Use, clean and maintain various equipment.
- Supervise journeymen, apprentices or other workers.

What are some health and safety issues for electricians?

Electricians work in a variety of settings and may be exposed to several hazards, including:

- Risk of fatal [electrical](#) shock.
- Risk of [electrical](#) burns.
- Fire.
- Working in [confined spaces](#).
- Lead, solvents, solder, and other materials.
- [Welding](#) hazards, including [UV radiation](#).

- [Working in extreme conditions](#). Risk of pain or injury from [awkward positions](#), [repetitive manual tasks](#), or [lifting](#) heavy objects.
 - [Moulds, fungi and bacteria](#).
 - Risk of infection from [bird](#) or [rodent](#) droppings.
 - Working at [heights](#).
 - Risk of [eye injury](#) from flying particles.
 - [Slips, trips and falls](#).
 - Working with various [hand tools](#), [power tools](#) and equipment.
 - [Stress](#).
 - [Shift work](#) or [extended work days](#).
 - [Working alone](#).
 - Possible exposure to [asbestos](#).
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What are some preventive measures for electricians?

- Inspect work area before work starts to identify potential hazards and their controls.
 - Keep tools and equipment in good working order.
 - Use appropriate [personal protective equipment](#) for the task, including [footwear](#).
 - Keep work areas clear of clutter and equipment.
 - Avoid [awkward positions](#), and [repetitive tasks](#), or take frequent breaks.
 - Use safe lifting techniques.
 - Follow a recommended shift work pattern, and know the associated hazards.
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What are some good general safe work practices?

- Follow correct procedures for:
 - [Electrical](#) safety
 - Lockout/tagout
 - [Confined spaces](#) entry
 - Working at heights
 - Working with [ladders](#)
 - [Lifting](#)
 - Working with [hand tools](#), and [power tools](#)
 - Fire safety
 - Use, maintain and store [personal protective equipment](#) according to manufacturer's recommendations.
 - Learn about chemical hazards, [WHMIS](#) and [SDSs](#).
 - Know how to [report a hazard](#).
 - Follow [good housekeeping](#) procedures.
 - Follow company safety rules and operating procedures.
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