

CHOOSING THE RIGHT ELECTRICIAN

Faulty wiring is a fire waiting to happen. That's reason enough to hire an experienced electrician, but not the only one. Although wiring might seem like a black-and-white proposition—either the light goes on or it doesn't—it's actually a vast interdependent network. Circuits that are otherwise safe but poorly designed can damage appliance motors and electronic gear because they deliver the wrong amperage. Lights on even partially overloaded circuits can flicker when an appliance is in use, or the breaker may trip or the fuse might blow, shutting down the circuit entirely. Hiring an experienced electrician can help you avoid these problems.

Electricians tend to specialize. Some concentrate on new construction, some just in commercial work and some go only on service calls to fix dead outlets or faulty fixtures. Those who specialize in remodeling have mastered techniques for wiring existing homes and additions, such as snaking wires through finished walls, assessing the capacity of existing circuits and evaluating whether to install an additional service panel (where the circuit breakers are) to handle increased power demands. Therefore, it is always best to hire the services of a professional to find and fix the problem for you. It can be a bit of a daunting task in deciding which electrician or electrical service to use as there are hundreds to choose from and you only have to look in the Yellow Pages or search on Google to see that this is the case. However, there are some factors that you can check to ensure that you pick the right company and get good service.

Tip #1 – Always check well known resources like Angie's List for reviews of the many contractors in your area.

Tip #2 – Visit the electricians web site. In this day and age there is no excuse for not having a web page. Not only does it help the contractor advertise his or her services but it gives them a chance to show perspective new clients what they are all about. A good web site should tell you about the company and include references.

Tip #3 - Experience is everything!! An experienced electrician will not only get the job done correctly the 1st time but will also have the expertise to get it done efficiently saving you time & money.

Tip #4 – Make sure they are licensed and insured.

Tip #5 - Check your gut. For most people, a good electrician becomes your electrician for life (or at least till you move away). An electrician that you like dealing with is essential.

Remember, unlicensed trades people (known as **cowboys**) operate with lower overheads (no license fees or insurance costs) and so can often afford to charge less than a quality, qualified tradesperson. Don't get caught in the price trap - **cheaper isn't always better!**
