

Electrician

Wire homes, buildings and industry. Earn a paycheque from your first year of training.

TYPICAL PAY

\$76,000

a year, full time

PAY RANGE

\$40k to \$105k

starting to experienced

TIME TO QUALIFY

4 to 5 years

after high school

DEMAND

Good

job outlook

LICENCE NEEDED

Yes

regulated job

WHERE YOU WORK

Construction sites, homes, factories, utilities

How you get there

- 1 High school diploma** Grade 12
Grade 12 with math and physics is ideal. Some provinces let you start earlier through a youth apprenticeship program.
- 2 Find a sponsor** Weeks to months
An employer or union that will take you on as an apprentice. This is the hardest step. Pre-apprenticeship college programs help you get noticed.
- 3 Register the apprenticeship** Days
With your provincial trades authority, for example Skilled Trades Ontario or Alberta Apprenticeship and Industry Training.
- 4 Work and study** 4 to 5 years
9,000 hours in Ontario (about 8,160 on the job plus 840 in class over three blocks). Other provinces run 4 periods of roughly 1,500 to 1,800 hours each.
- 5 Certificate of Qualification and Red Seal** After your hours
Pass the provincial exam. Add the Red Seal endorsement to work in any province.

Pros and cons

- + No student debt, paid from the start
- + Licensed in under 5 years
- + Can run your own business
- Physically hard: ladders, crawlspaces, cold sites
- Construction work can be seasonal or slow in a downturn
- Real electrical risk, safety rules are strict for a reason

Good to know

The Red Seal is a passport

The Red Seal program covers more than 60 trades and lets a certified tradesperson work anywhere in Canada. Construction Electrician is one of the most popular Red Seal trades and every province and terri...

Canada is short on electricians

Industry groups estimate tens of thousands of electricians will retire this decade. Governments are paying bonuses and grants to get people into the trade.

Optional boosts

Master Electrician licence. Industrial electrician (a second trade). Instrumentation or PLC (programmable logic controller) training. Solar and EV (electric vehicle) charger installation.

Where these numbers come from

Job Bank: Electricians, wages (updated Nov 2025)

Red Seal Program: Construction Electrician

Skilled Trades Ontario: Electrician, Construction and Maintenance (309A)

Numbers checked September 2026. Pay figures are typical full-time annual amounts in Canadian dollars, based on Government of Canada Job Bank wage data and published salary grids. They vary by province, employer and experience. Tuition is for domestic students. Sources, links and the click-through version: <https://career.help/ca/careers/electrician>



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