

ELECTRICAL

Electrician

Do you have good communication and reading skills? Do you have a knack for maths and working with mechanical things? Are you good with your hands and in good shape? Do you enjoy using tools, figuring out plans and solving problems? Do you get along well with others? Then, you could become an electrician!

What the work is like

Electricians install, test, and repair electrical wiring, fixtures, and related equipment in all types of buildings and structures.

They are employed by electrical contractors and building maintenance departments, or they may be self-employed.

Electricians work in all four construction sectors: new home building and renovation, heavy industrial, institutional and commercial, and civil engineering.

Your duties

As an electrician, your duties may include:

- Installing and repairing lighting fixtures and equipment, including switches and circuit breakers
- Connecting power to communications equipment, signalling devices and heating and cooling systems
- Troubleshooting electronic systems and replacing faulty components
- Conducting preventive maintenance programs
- Reading and interpreting drawings and blueprints



Work conditions

The standard work week for electricians is 40 hours (8 hours a day, 5 days a week). As with many careers in construction, there are peak periods that will require you to work overtime. The number of additional hours you work each week depends on the construction sector and region you work in, and will vary from one job to the next.

As an electrician, you may work indoors and outdoors, independently or with other construction professionals. If you work in renovation or maintenance you may have to deal with customers.

The work can be physically demanding, and you may have to work at heights.

As with all careers in the construction industry, safety is the top priority. Electricians are trained to work safely, and take special precautions to protect themselves from electrical shocks.

Building your career

With experience and additional training you can move into more senior positions such as estimator or electrical inspector, or into supervisory roles such as foreman or superintendent. You can also become self-employed and start your own contracting business.

As with most careers in the construction industry, your skills are portable. If you want to move, you can take your skills with you.

More information:

Gauteng Master Builders Association

Tel: 011-805 6611
www.gmba.org.za

