



Introduction

Choosing the right electrician is important - not just for the quality of the work, but for safety, compliance, and long-term reliability.

This guide will help you:

- Understand what to look for
- Know what questions to ask
- Feel confident in your decision

Taking the time to check these points can help ensure the work is completed safely, professionally, and to the correct standard.

Qualifications

Any electrician you choose should hold appropriate and up-to-date qualifications relevant to the work being carried out.

Training routes can vary — from apprenticeship-based learning to shorter courses — but the key factor is competence and experience.

You should feel comfortable asking:

- What qualifications they hold
- Whether these are relevant to your type of work

A professional electrician will be happy to explain their qualifications - particularly for safety-critical work.

Example of a current electrical qualification (BS 7671 – Wiring Regulations):



Competent Person Registration

For most domestic electrical work, electricians should be registered with a recognised Competent Person Scheme, such as NAPIT or NICEIC.

This means they can:

- Self-certify their work complies with Building Regulations
- Be regularly assessed to maintain standards

If you're unsure, you can check registration using the official register:

Find a registered electrician here: [Find a Competent Person](#)

Once work is completed, you should also receive documentation confirming compliance.

Certification and Documentation

For many types of electrical work, you should receive certification on completion.

Typical documents include:

- Electrical Installation Certificate (EIC)
- Minor Works Certificate (MWC)

These confirm the work has been properly tested and complies with current regulations.

If anything isn't clear, ask what certification will be provided before work begins.

If certification is not provided where it should be, this may be a cause for concern.

If you'd like to understand what these certificates mean, you can read our [guide on electrical certification](#).

Insurance

A professional electrician should hold appropriate insurance, including public liability insurance.

This helps protect both you and them in the unlikely event something goes wrong.

Depending on the type of work, they may also hold:

- Employers' liability insurance (if they have staff)
- Professional indemnity insurance (for design or advisory work)

A professional electrician should be happy to provide confirmation of their insurance if requested.

Experience and Type of Work

Not all electricians carry out the same type of work.

Some may specialise in:

- Domestic installations
- Fault finding
- Testing and inspection
- Larger or commercial projects

Some electricians may specialise in areas such as solar installations or other emerging systems.

A good electrician will not only carry out the work safely, but also consider how the installation may need to be adapted or expanded in the future.

Make sure the electrician has experience relevant to the work you need.

Choosing the Right Type of Electrician

You may come across both independent electricians and larger companies when getting quotes.

Both can provide a professional service, but the experience may differ:

- Larger companies may offer greater availability and multiple engineers

- Independent electricians often provide a more personal, consistent service

The most important factor is not the size of the business, but the person carrying out the work.

You should be confident in:

- Their experience
- The quality of their work
- Their ability to carry out the work safely and correctly

It's reasonable to ask who will be attending and how the work will be delivered.

Consistency can be particularly important on larger or longer projects, where having the same person involved throughout can help avoid misunderstandings

Reviews and Recommendations

Customer reviews can be a useful way to understand how an electrician works.

Look for feedback that mentions:

- The type of work carried out
- Communication and reliability
- Tidiness and respect for the property

Review platforms can vary in how feedback is verified, so it's often best to consider multiple sources where possible.

Quotations and Scope of Work

A professional electrician should be able to clearly explain what is included in the work.

A good quote should:

- Clearly outline what is being done
- Highlight any exclusions or assumptions
- Be easy to understand

This helps avoid misunderstandings and ensures both parties are clear on the scope of the work.

Professional electricians will also typically provide Terms and Conditions alongside their quotation, outlining important details such as payment terms, responsibilities, and how the work will be carried out.

Communication and Professional Approach

Clear communication is one of the strongest indicators of a professional service.

You should expect:

- Clear explanations (without unnecessary jargon)
- Honest advice based on your needs
- A structured and organised approach

If something isn't clear, it's always worth asking for clarification.

A good electrician will take the time to explain things properly - not rush decisions or leave you unsure.

Final Thoughts

Choosing an electrician isn't just about price - it's about having confidence in how the work will be carried out and who is carrying it out.

Taking the time to check qualifications, experience, and approach can help avoid problems later and ensure the work is completed safely and to a high standard.

If anything isn't clear, ask - a professional electrician will always be happy to explain.