

Electrician Interview Questions And Answers Guide.



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Electrician Job Interview Preparation Guide.

Question # 1

What is the difference between fuse and circuit breaker?

Answer:-

Fuse:

A fuse has a wire that melts with the heat of a short circuit or high current and interrupts the circuit. Once melted, you have to replace it.

Circuit Breaker:

A circuit breaker interrupts the current without melting (a pair of metal sheets with different thermal expansion coefficient, for example) and can be reset.

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Question # 2

Why welding machine welding cables don't get electric shock to human body?

Answer:-

No Answer is Posted For this Question

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Question # 3

Should I immediately call an electrician or first attempt to do an electrical job myself?

Answer:-

When dealing with an electrical problem, it's best to contact a licensed professional at once. If you try to solve the problem on your own, you could jeopardize your safety as well as that of your electrical system and equipment. And though it's not as urgent, electrical installation of any kind also merits expert assistance.

It's likely that you don't want to hire an electrician because of the expense, but that plan could easily backfire. Any mistakes you make may lead to damages that will only cost you more in the long run.

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Question # 4

What kind of electrician should I hire?

Answer:-

Electricians have varying levels of experience and qualifications. There are apprentices, Journeyman electricians, and Master electricians.

An apprentice is still required to work under the supervision of a Journeyman and Master electrician. A Journeyman electrician has extensive knowledge of various electrical fields and can work unsupervised, but he is still not sufficiently qualified to take on electrical projects of utmost complexity. A master electrician is fully qualified to handle any electrical project. Your electrician's experience should at least be directly proportional to the difficulty of the job you need to have done.

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Question # 5

What makes an electrician qualified to do what he does?

Answer:-

His years of studying, training, and gaining relevant experience. An electrician needs to complete school and spend years (or the equivalent of several thousand working hours) as an apprentice before he even becomes eligible for a license. Add the skill and experience he developed after acquiring his license, and you should be confident that he can serve you well.

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Question # 6

Is an electrician license really that important?

Answer:-

Absolutely. A valid professional license is the ultimate proof of your electrician's qualifications. Without one, your electrician can't assure you that he has gone through the requisite training and tests that would enable him to perform at a high standard and in accordance with the NEC. Never hire an unlicensed electrician if



Electrician Interview Questions And Answers

you're after quality service. (Refer to our ["Electrician Licensing"](#) page for more on this.)

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Question # 7

What is the NEC?

Answer:-

NEC stands for National Electrical Code. Refer to our page on the NEC for more details.

[Read More Answers.](#)

Question # 8

Is there any way for me to spend less for availing of electrician services?

Answer:-

One of the best ways to save money on electrician costs is to do some research. Find out how much electrician companies and individual electricians charge for their services. Compare quotes between different electrician service providers and determine which one is best for your budget. You can learn more tips from our ["Work and Costs"](#) section.

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Question # 9

What is an electrical contractor?

Answer:-

Electrical contractors are qualified to install and connect wiring, fixtures and appliances. They also install solar panels and other equipment for generating power.

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Question # 10

How much does an electrician charge?

Answer:-

Most good quality electricians will provide you with a detailed quotation free. For smaller jobs, a price estimate is often available over the phone.

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Question # 11

What should I do if I need to hire an electrical contractor?

Answer:-

Be sure to hire a licensed professional electrician. There are several reasons for this:

1. you'll get a better job
2. work will comply with the building code
3. you won't have an insurance problem if something goes wrong

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Question # 12

What rules do electrical contractors have to follow?

Answer:-

Electrician is a trade qualification and electrical contractors are licensed in each state. Many electricians also choose to belong to professional associations like NECA (National Electrical & Communications Association).

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Question # 13

What can I do to protect myself from electrical accidents or injuries?

Answer:-

Have an electrical contractor install a safety switch or circuit breaker. Nearly all electrical accidents involving consumer products could have been prevented by one of these devices.

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Question # 14

What is a safety switch?

Answer:-

A safety switch is a device fitted to the property supply that cuts out electricity almost instantly in the event of a significant power leak or surge.

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Question # 15

How do I know if my electrical installation is safe?

Answer:-

Only a qualified electrical contractor is licensed to properly test your installation for safety and issue a compliance certificate.



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Question # 16

I have got old wiring, can any electrician handle that?

Answer:-

Old wiring can be dangerous. Use a licensed electrician with experience in older homes or property.

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Question # 17

What about solar electricity?

Answer:-

An electrical contractor can install solar panels to your property. Excess energy collected by your solar panels is fed into the electrical grid. You receive credit for power generated on your electricity bill.

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Question # 18

When do I call an electrician?

Answer:-

Whenever you have a job relating to power or wiring.

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Question # 19

Can't I do the work myself?

Answer:-

It's OK to visit the hardware shop and buy the switch you like the look of. But you need a licensed electrician to complete the work. A licensed electrician will issue a certificate to show the work complies with building standards. That way your property won't be devalued or insurance issues crop up in the event of a problem.

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Question # 20

Does the electrician need a copy of my plans?

Answer:-

If you are building a new property it is helpful for the electrician to see the plans. Also discuss your personal needs so that power outlets are conveniently placed.

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Question # 21

What is the NEC? Where can I get a copy?

Answer:-

The NEC is a model electrical code devised and published by the National Fire Protection Association, an insurance industry group. It's revised every three years. The 1993 version has been released. You can buy a copy at a decent bookstore, or by calling them directly at 800-344-3555. The code exists in several versions. There's the full text, which is fairly incomprehensible. There's an abridged edition, which has only the sections likely to apply to most houses. And there's the NEC Handbook, which contains the "authorized commentary" on the code, as well as the full text. That's the recommended version. Unfortunately, there's no handbook for the abridged edition. And the full handbook is expensive -- US\$65 plus shipping and handling.

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Question # 22

What is UL listing?

Answer:-

The UL stands for "Underwriters Laboratory". It used to be an Insurance Industry organization, but now it is independent and non-profit. It tests electrical components and equipment for potential hazards. When something is UL-listed, that means that the UL has tested the device, and it meets their requirements for safety - ie: fire or shock hazard. It doesn't necessarily mean that the device actually does what it's supposed to, just that it probably won't kill you.

The UL does not have power of law in the U.S. -- you are permitted to buy and install non-UL-listed devices. However, insurance policies sometimes have clauses in them that will limit their liability in case of a claim made in response to



the failure of a non-UL-listed device. Furthermore, in many situations the NEC will require that a wiring component used for a specific purpose is UL-listed for that purpose. Indirectly, this means that certain parts of your wiring must be UL-listed before an inspector will approve it and/or occupancy permits issued.

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Question # 23

What is CSA approval?

Answer:-

Every electrical device or component must be certified by the Canadian Standards Association (or recognized equivalent) before it can be sold in Canada. Implicit in this is that all wiring must be done with CSA-approved materials. They perform testing similar to the UL (a bit more stringent), except that CSA (or recognized equivalent) approval is required by law.

Again, like the UL, if a fire was caused by non-CSA-approved equipment, your insurance company may not have to pay the claim.

Note: strictly speaking, there usually is a legal way around the lack of a CSA sticker. In some cases (eg: Ontario), a local hydro inspection prior to purchase, or prior to use, is acceptable. The hydro inspector will affix a "hydro sticker" to the unit, which is as good as CSA approval. But it costs money - last I knew, \$75 per unit inspected.

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Question # 24

My house does not meet some of these rules and regulations. Do I have to upgrade?

Answer:-

In general, there is no requirement to upgrade older dwellings, though there are some exceptions (ie: smoke detectors in some cases). However, any new work must be done according to the latest electrical code. Also, if you do "major" work, you may be required to upgrade certain existing portions or all of your system. Check with your local electrical inspector.

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Question # 25

What is a circuit?

Answer:-

Inside the panel, connections are made to the incoming wires. These connections are then used to supply power to selected portions of the home. There are three different combinations:

- 1) one hot, one neutral, and ground: 110V circuit.
- 2) two hots, no neutral, and ground: 220V circuit.
- 3) two hots, neutral, and ground: 220V circuit + neutral, and/or two 110V circuits with a common neutral.

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Question # 26

What does a fuse or breaker do? What are the differences?

Answer:-

Fuses and circuit breakers are designed to interrupt the power to a circuit when the current flow exceeds safe levels. For example, if your toaster shorts out, a fuse or breaker should "trip", protecting the wiring in the walls from melting. As such, fuses and breakers are primarily intended to protect the wiring -- UL or CSA approval supposedly indicates that the equipment itself won't cause a fire.

Fuses contain a narrow strip of metal which is designed to melt (safely) when the current exceeds the rated value, thereby interrupting the power to the circuit. Fuses trip relatively fast. Which can sometimes be a problem with motors which have large startup current surges. For motor circuits, you can use a "time-delay" fuse (one brand is "fusetron") which will avoid tripping on momentary overloads. A fusetron looks like a spring-loaded fuse. A fuse can only trip once, then it must be replaced.

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Question # 27

Breakers? Can I use fuses?

Answer:-

Statistics show that fuse panels have a significantly higher risk of causing a fire than breaker panels. This is usually due to the fuse being loosely screwed in, or the contacts corroding and heating up over time, or the wrong size fuse being installed, or the proverbial "replace the fuse with a penny" trick.

Since breakers are more permanently installed, and have better connection mechanisms, the risk of fire is considerably less. Fuses are prone to explode under extremely high overload. When a fuse explodes, the metallic vapor cloud becomes a conducting path. Result? From complete meltdown of the electrical panel, melted service wiring, through fires in the electrical distribution transformer and having your house burn down. Breakers won't do this.

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Question # 28

What does "14-2" mean?

Answer:-

This is used to describe the size and quantity of conductors in a cable. The first number specifies the gauge. The second the number of current carrying conductors in the wire - but remember there's usually an extra ground wire. "14-2" means 14 gauge, two insulated current carrying wires, plus bare ground. -2 wire usually has a black, white and bare ground wire. Sometimes the white is red instead for 220V circuits without neutral. In the latter case, the sheath is usually red too. -3 wire usually has a black, red, white and bare ground wire. Usually carrying 220V with neutral.

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Question # 29

What is The Electrician?

Answer:-

The Electrician is a home electrical service created by The Electrician Service Co. Inc. serving homeowners, in Nassau and Suffolk Counties.

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Question # 30

What services do you provide?

Answer:-

We provide the following:

- * Residential electrical work, central heating, cooling and air filtration
- * Convenient, secure online self-scheduling for all your electrical needs
- * Extended hours of operation: 7am - 7pm
- * Discounted member rates on labor and services
- * A Home Electrical Safety Survey of all electrical systems for members

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