ELECTRICIAN PROS — GUIDE

How to choose an electrician for your job

Check the contracting business, compare the scope and plan the inspection records.

Updated November 10, 2026

Describe the problem or project in plain words before requesting a quote. Include the address, type of premises, access limits and equipment involved. For a business, note working hours and the effect of a power outage. Do not diagnose a wiring fault from a photograph.

Check the contracting business

Ask for the legal business name, licence number and issuing agency. Open the official register yourself. California CSLB's consumer page provides a route to licence checks and hiring guidance. Texas TDLR lists individual and business electrical licences separately. These sources were checked 2026-11-10.

Ask which credential belongs to the business and which belongs to the person doing or supervising the work. Resolve a mismatch in names or scope with the issuing agency. Ask for current insurance information and check it with the provider named on the document. Do not assume membership in an association substitutes for a licence.

Ask about comparable work

For a panel project, ask how the contractor assesses loads and coordinates utility work. For a charger, ask about vehicle needs, charging current and the route to the parking space. For a generator, ask about transfer equipment and coordination with the fuel installer. For commercial work, explain access, tenants and shutdown constraints.

Ask for references relevant to the scope. Use your own judgement when assessing them. A directory entry and a paid placement are not a recommendation from Electrician Pros.

Compare written scopes

Ask each contractor to identify equipment, materials, labour, permit work, inspection, restoration and exclusions. Mark missing items before comparing totals. Agree how changes are documented and approved. Request the payment schedule and warranty terms in writing. This guide does not prescribe a legal deposit limit.

Agree who handles permits

Washington L&I says a hired electrical contractor must purchase its own permits for the work. Ontario ESA says a hired Licensed Electrical Contractor files the notification and requests inspection. Both pages were checked 2026-11-10. For another jurisdiction, ask the responsible office what applies at the address.

Decide how the job ends

Ask for test and commissioning records appropriate to the scope, a circuit schedule where relevant, equipment instructions and final acceptance documents. In Ontario, ask for the ESA Certificate of Acceptance described on its page. Keep copies with the invoice.

Before hiring, confirm availability, the site contact and the process for unresolved issues. Never treat an empty listing field as evidence that the contractor offers a service or price. Ask the business directly.

Sources

All sources below were fetched and checked on 2026-11-10. This is the check date, not a claim that each page was published that day.

- California CSLB, Hire a Licensed Contractor. Checked 2026-11-10.
- Texas TDLR, Electricians. Checked 2026-11-10.
- Washington L&I, Electrical Permits, Fees & Inspections. Checked 2026-11-10.
- Ontario ESA, Notifications and Inspections. Checked 2026-11-10.

Frequently asked questions

Does a paid badge prove a contractor is qualified?

No. Check the issuing agency and ask about relevant work. Payment does not certify trade competence.

Should I compare only the total price?

Compare the included scope, exclusions, permit responsibility and handover documents as well.