

How to Become a Certified Electrician

What you need to know about certification in Washington State



State law requires a valid certificate of competency from the Department of Labor & Industries (L&I) for anyone working in the electrical trade.

How do I become an electrician in Washington State?

Here's how to get started:

- **Get an electrical training certificate** (trainee card) from L&I. You must be at least 16 years old.* You will need to renew your training certificate every two years until you have enough hours to take the exam.
- **Work under the direct supervision of a certified electrician** while you are gaining the required hours of experience to become either a *journeyman* or *specialty electrician*. The certified electrician must appropriately supervise your activities **and** your work hours must be documented by your employer.
- **Before renewing your training certificate**, you must complete the L&I-required and approved basic classroom instruction:
 - You will need 24 hours/year.
 - **Important:** Before applying to take the certification exam, you must have completed 24 hours of basic classroom instruction for each 2000 hours of experience required for certification.

* Note: If you're under the age of 18, there are certain work restrictions. Learn more at www.Lni.wa.gov/TeenWorkers.

How do I get an electrical training certificate?

- You can apply for a certificate or renew it online at www.Lni.wa.gov/ElectricalRenew, or by mailing an application for renewal to the Electrical Program, or by going in person to any L&I office.
- Be sure to notify L&I if your address changes to ensure that you get your renewal notice on time.

How many hours of experience are required to qualify for the exam?

The “general journeyman” trade requires 8,000 experience hours. Most of the specialty trades (residential, HVAC/refrigeration, sign installer, etc.) require 4,000 hours and a few trades require 2,000.

Learn more at www.Lni.wa.gov/ElectricalRenew and click on “Electrical Licenses and Certificates” or contact the Electrical Program. See contact information below.

Important! Be sure the electrical contractor and electrician you work for are properly licensed. Otherwise, you will not get experience credit for your work hours.

For more information

Web: www.Lni.wa.gov/ElectricalProgram

Phone: 360-902-5269

Email: ElectricalProgram@Lni.wa.gov

L&I Offices: www.Lni.wa.gov/Offices

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Washington State Department of
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Electrical Program

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