



**What does it
take to become an
Auto Electrician?**



An Auto Electrician is an Electrician who specializes in the electric systems contained within automotive vehicles. An Auto Electrician is an expert on all of the systems in your car that you only notice when something goes wrong. Your headlights, diagnostic lights, alarm system, circuit board, alternator and starter motor all fall under the Auto Electrician's domain of expertise. They carry out tests on automotive electrical systems to diagnose faults and repair and replace automotive electrical systems such as charging and starting systems. They also repair and replace electronic systems such as air-conditioning systems, ABS brakes, electronically controlled gearboxes, instrument panels and vehicle computers. Auto-Electricians also install car security and entertainment systems.

Skills and Knowledge

Auto-Electricians need to have knowledge of automotive electronics, including electrical theory, circuit diagrams and electronic components. Basic engineering and vehicle mechanics are also essential skills. Auto-Electricians need to be accurate, logical, methodical, patient and safety-conscious. Auto-Electricians need to have good hand-eye co-ordination and normal colour vision. They also need to be agile and have good flexibility for working in small spaces.

Training

Training programmes at registered training institutions typically cover both theoretical and practical

components. Useful school subjects to secure enrollment include English, Mathematics and Science. Typically, training courses enable participants to gain skills in all aspects of the automotive electrical trade and covers components such as health and safety, using tools, and repairing, servicing and testing all the elements of auto-electrical systems. You will be assessed to show that you have achieved the skills and knowledge required by the course. Assessment may include written, oral or practical assessment methods.

Working Conditions

The technology we put into our cars is getting more complex by the day. Most modern cars and motorbikes have a wide range of electronic equipment controlling all aspects of performance. And as an Auto-Electrician you will spend a lot of time under the bonnet checking and testing wiring. Auto-Electricians mainly work regular business hours, but may also work overtime and be on call. Although most work is performed in workshops and garages, Auto-Electricians often travel locally to call-outs on the road.

Job Prospects

The demand for Auto-Electricians has increased largely because newer cars have more complex electrical systems that require people with specialist skills to work on them. Types of employers include specialised auto-electrical workshops, motor vehicle dealerships, general motor vehicle servicing companies or automotive engineering workshops.

- ELECTRONIC WIRING + PARTS
- DIAGNOSE + REPAIR FAULTS
- INSTALLATIONS + MAINTENANCE
- TROUBLESHOOTING

- ELECTRONICS
- BASIC ENGINEERING/MECHANICS
- LOGICAL + METHODOICAL
- HAND-EYE COORDINATION

- THEORY + PRACTICE
- DIAGRAMMES + SCHEMATICS
- LIFELONG LEARNING
- CAREER PROGRESSION

Don't fear this work. Yes, you will have to work harder to succeed, but challenge yourself and show others that irrespective of your gender, as long as you are given the equal opportunity, you can succeed.

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- REGULAR BUSINESS HOURS
- WORKSHOPS/GARAGES
- ROAD CALL-OUTS

- INCREASING DEMAND
- WORKSHOPS + DEALERSHIPS
- SELF-EMPLOYMENT
- SPECIALISED APPLICATIONS