

Getting-Started Pack

Companion to How to Become an Electrician · By Dillon Meyers

Appendix A: Checklists (first day, first week, first month)

First day checklist

- Confirm start time and address the day before
- Show up 15–20 minutes early
- Boots, work clothes, and required PPE
- Water, snacks, and any required paperwork
- Basic hand tools from the tool list, pouch, and a notebook
- Keep your phone away unless you need it for work
- Ask where to park, where to store tools, and who your point of contact is

First week checklist

- Learn names, jobsite rules, and where material is stored
- Ask for expectations: break times, reporting structure, daily start routine
- Identify the top 20 materials you touch most
- Keep your tools organized and your area clean

First month checklist

- Track what you learned each week
- Ask for feedback: one thing to improve, one thing you're doing well
- Start learning prints and layout basics
- Identify a specialty direction you might want to explore

Appendix B: Starter tool checklist

This is a starter list. Your employer may require more or less.

Wire strippers · Lineman pliers · Diagonal cutters (dikes) · Needle-nose pliers · Channel-lock pliers · Screwdrivers (flat and Phillips, plus a multi-bit driver) · Allen keys (hex set) · Tape measure · Torpedo level · Utility knife / razor blade · Hammer · Pouch and a small tool bag · Non-contact voltage tester (tic tester) · Basic multimeter (learn to use it safely) · Drill bit set (as needed)

Appendix C: PPE and clothing checklist

Work boots appropriate for the site · Work pants and durable shirts · Safety glasses · Hearing protection · Work gloves (task-appropriate) · Hard hat if required · High-visibility vest/shirt if required · Weather gear: rain jacket, layers for cold, sun protection for heat

Appendix D: Resume + interview templates

Beginner resume headline examples

- Entry-Level Electrical Apprentice | Reliable | Safety-Minded
- Electrical Helper | Ready to Learn | Strong Work Ethic

Resume bullet examples (entry-level)

- Reliable worker with hands-on experience using basic hand and power tools in construction/maintenance environments.
- Demonstrated punctuality and strong attendance across prior roles.
- Able to follow instructions, work safely, and learn quickly under supervision.
- Comfortable lifting, climbing ladders, and working in physically demanding conditions.
- Team-oriented and able to communicate clearly with foremen, journeymen, and other trades.

Interview answers that work

- **Why electrical?** "I want a hands-on career with a clear training path and long-term demand."
- **What are your strengths?** "Reliability, learning fast, and taking safety seriously."
- **Weakness?** "I'm new, so I'm careful about asking questions and verifying instructions."
- **What do you do if you're unsure?** "I stop and ask. I don't guess with electricity."

Interview questions you should be ready for

- Why do you want to become an electrician?
- Tell me about a time you learned a skill quickly.
- How do you handle working early mornings and long days?
- What does safety mean to you on a jobsite?
- Are you able to travel or work overtime if needed?

Appendix E: Questions to ask an employer or apprenticeship program

- What does the first 30 days look like for a new apprentice/helper?
- Who trains apprentices day-to-day?
- What is your PPE policy? Do you enforce it?
- How often do apprentices work energized systems?
- What tools should I bring on day one?

- Do you reimburse for school or books? Do you provide a tool list?
- How much travel is typical?
- What is the pay progression and review schedule?
- What type of work do you do most?
- What are your expectations for a new hire in the first 30–90 days?
- How do you handle safety and lockout/tagout?

1.5 The first phone call and the first interview

Your goal is to sound like an adult who will show up.

- Be ready to answer: where you live, transportation, work history, why electrical, availability, and whether you can pass a drug test if required.
- Ask smart questions: schedule, travel expectations, tool list, PPE policy, who supervises apprentices, and what your first month looks like.
- If you don't know something, say "I'm not sure yet, but I'm ready to learn and I take safety seriously."

1.6 Resume that works for beginners

One page. Clean. No fluff. Show reliability and hands-on ability.

Section — What to include

Headline — Entry-Level Electrical Apprentice | Reliable | Ready to Learn

Summary (3–4 lines) — Dependable worker with hands-on experience. Strong safety mindset. Comfortable with tools.

Experience — Construction, mechanical, warehouse, landscaping, maintenance. Focus on safety, teamwork, and showing up.

Skills — Hand tools, measurement, basic math, ladder safety, communication, learning fast.

Certs (if any) — OSHA card, first aid/CPR, lift/scissor training, driver license.

References — Available on request, or list 2–3 if you have strong ones.

Include any construction, mechanical, warehouse, or maintenance work. Even if it was not a job, projects count: building a fence, repairing equipment, remodeling a room.