

Choosing electrical products and services: Do your research first

The licensed and experienced electricians at Halton Electric in Burlington want to help you take the uncertainty out of hiring an electrician and prevent complications that can come from purchasing inferior or outdated electrical products, especially where LED lights are concerned.

Some contractors offer low rates, but many times with these low rates can come inexperienced or unreliable workers and/or subpar products. For example, many off-brand LED lights and fixtures are not compatible with dimmers and other products from mainstream North American brands. Although the least expensive may be very tempting, it's not always the wisest choice, as you usually end up with additional expenses for service calls for troubleshooting and replacements.

Many times, the least expensive products, such as LEDs newly available from overseas, and the least expensive contractors are cheaper for a reason, so don't get taken in by a fly-by-night operation because if the quality of service and/or products are poor, the work is often inconsistent. Be careful -- don't just take a contractor/electrician because he's giving you the price you want to hear. It's best to choose a reliable, fully licensed operator with lots of experience and the workers to match. Ask for references and do some searching online for reviews. Whether researching services or products, check on warranties and product compatibility so that you won't find yourself with no recourse should a problem arise, or that the service provider used 'can no longer be found.'

Additionally, the quality and reliability of employees is very important, since they would be doing the bulk of the hands-on work on your project. Lighting contractors/consultants often employ general labourers who work with them because they do not need to be licensed electricians to work on low voltage lighting/ wiring. The best recommendation is, as with any project, it's always best to get at least three quotes and if you find that one is substantially less than the others, find out why.

It can be difficult to know which contractor is right for you and your project. It's important that you get all the answers you need from your contractor regarding both services and products used. With over 40 years in the business, providing a wide range of services to residential, commercial and industrial customers, Halton Electric is a great place to start your search, and the staff is happy to help. Just give them a call at 905-335-2104 or send an email to haltonelec@cogeco.ca.