

Hire certified tradespeople!

Don't cross your fingers. Ask about certification!

A homeowner's short course on getting quality work, peace of mind.

When you want to hire someone to build or remodel your home, do home repairs, or landscape your garden, choosing the right person to do the work can be a very difficult decision.

All too often, homeowners pick someone from the newspaper or at random, and hope the person they've chosen is competent.

There's a much better way!

This information will help you ensure that the people you hire to do trades work will do the job safely, accurately and professionally. That means good value for the money, and security in knowing the work will be done to high standards. It all boils down to always making sure *before* the job starts the tradespeople involved are *certified journey-people or registered apprentices*.

What's certification?

A certified journeyman has successfully completed a program of apprenticeship training involving a combination of classroom instruction and, depending on the trade, between 1,000 and 6,000-plus hours of on-the-job training and work experience under the supervision of an experienced, certified tradesperson. At every stage, the apprentice must pass exams showing his/her skills meet high standards.

A certified journeyman can also be:

- a person with enough knowledge and experience for the Alberta government to certify, after an exam, that his/her skills are equivalent to someone who has completed an apprenticeship program.

- an individual with journeyman status in another province, and whose journey-person's card from that province is endorsed with the Interprovincial Red Seal.

Membership in a trades organization or association does NOT mean that a person is certified. Only holders of an Alberta or Red Seal-endorsed journeyman card are certified.



Always ask to see a government-issued card like this when hiring tradespeople.

Which trades?

Here's a list of the trades most commonly hired by homeowners. Those trades in which workers *must*, by law, be certified are marked with an asterisk (*)

- Bricklayer
- Cabinetmaker
- Carpenter
- Concrete Finisher (e.g., replacing driveways)
- Electrician*
- Floorcovering Installer
- Gasfitter*
- Glazier
- Landscape Gardener
- Locksmith
- Painter & Decorator
- Plumber*
- Tiler

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Other trades that homeowners may use for repair or installation work include:

- Appliance Service Technician*
- Electronic Technician* (e.g., radio or TV repair)
- Refrigeration & Air Conditioning Mechanic*
- Sheet Metal Worker* (e.g., heating systems, ducting)
- Water Well Driller
- Welder*

What's in it for the homeowner?

There are many benefits to the homeowner from using certified tradespeople:

- personal safety
- a job well done
- knowledge that the work you're paying for meets high standards.

Some home insurance policies require that any repairs to your home meet provincial standards and be carried out by a certified individual.

Tradespeople and their employers are proud of the consistent, quality work they do. They have high standards. They work hard to keep up with the changing technology. Many companies will only hire certified people, or people who are training toward certification.

No one can say that an uncertified worker does unsafe or substandard work. But you can be sure that a certified journeyman is capable of work that meets high standards for both safety and quality.

These trades may also affect you!

The majority of people own a car and get their hair cut or styled regularly. Most people working in the auto repair or hairstylist trades must, by law, be a certified journeyman or a registered apprentice.

These trades are:

- Auto Body Technician*
- Auto Glass Technician
- Auto Service Technician (mechanic)*
- Hairstylist*
- Motorcycle Mechanic*
- Recreational Vehicle Service Technician*

Two ways to find out:

When you're hiring someone to do trades work, always ask first to make sure the work will be done by a certified journeyman or a registered apprentice. Certified individuals will be proud to show you their card.

Or, you can call the nearest apprenticeship and industry training office to verify an individual's status. For offices outside your local calling area, call 310-0000, then enter the number you wish to reach.

<u>Bonnyville</u>	(780) 826-6142
<u>Calgary</u>	(403) 297-6457
<u>Edmonton</u>	(780) 427-8517
<u>Fort McMurray</u>	(780) 743-7150
<u>Grande Prairie</u>	(780) 538-5240
<u>Hinton</u>	(780) 865-8293
<u>Lethbridge</u>	(403) 381-5380
<u>Medicine Hat</u>	(403) 529-3580
<u>Peace River</u>	(780) 624-6529
<u>Red Deer</u>	(403) 340-5151
<u>Slave Lake</u>	(780) 849-7228
<u>Vermilion</u>	(780) 853-8150