

This short guide will teach you all you need to know to make sure you NEVER choose a bad electrician again



1. The Electrician seems nice and friendly, but how do I REALLY know if he knows his stuff?

Competent Electricians are government approved by a recognised organisation.

There is a website that lists both **ECA** and **NICEIC** members in one place, just hop on there and enter your tradesman's company name at <http://www.electricalcompetentperson.co.uk/>

ALWAYS go directly to an Electrician, and not through a 3rd party such as a Builder, Estate Agent, Investor, Kitchen Fitter, etc. The communication will be direct (and not delayed or mixed up), and there will be no price markup.

BONUS If they are also listed on **TrustMark** then this means they have additional insurances and will be even more professional than the standard members. Check on TrustMark at <http://www.trustmark.org.uk/>

2. Can I trust them in my own home, workplace or around vulnerable people?

CRB Police Checks will give you peace of mind that the individual tradesman has been screened. Ask the electrician to send you a copy of this document before they even go out to quote.

3. Pricing and Details of work

Once an Electrician has understood the work to be carried out (whether a simple job described over the phone, or a more complex job that required a visit), they should know EXACTLY how they are going to tackle this (otherwise they may take longer and involve more cost than they first thought - Which itself shows incompetency).

You should get a confirmed **written description** of the work and a price, these details should match what you asked for. If not then let them know and have it revised before agreeing to have any work done. Deposits may be expected and this is normal (as per Trading Standards guidelines), especially where parts are required.

If all details appear correct but the price seems low then beware!! "Cheap" work very often ends up costing between 3 and 5 times more (in the long run) than the normal/average price once you have to pay for work to be redone again, additional time off work, extra redecoration, etc.

BONUS - If they also give **Insurance Backed Warranty** with all Installation work - Ask if they do this (Many do not, but it will be extra peace of mind in case anything goes wrong).

4. Additional Documents

Ask for a copy of:

- Public Liability Insurance (Domestic should be at least £2 million, Commercial £5 million)
- Complaints Procedures (Registered Electricians get these from NICEIC to pass to you)

How does YOUR Electrician check out?

All 4 main points ok? Great! You are good to go.

Less than 4? Please **DO NOT** be tempted by a sales pitch, move on to the next person.

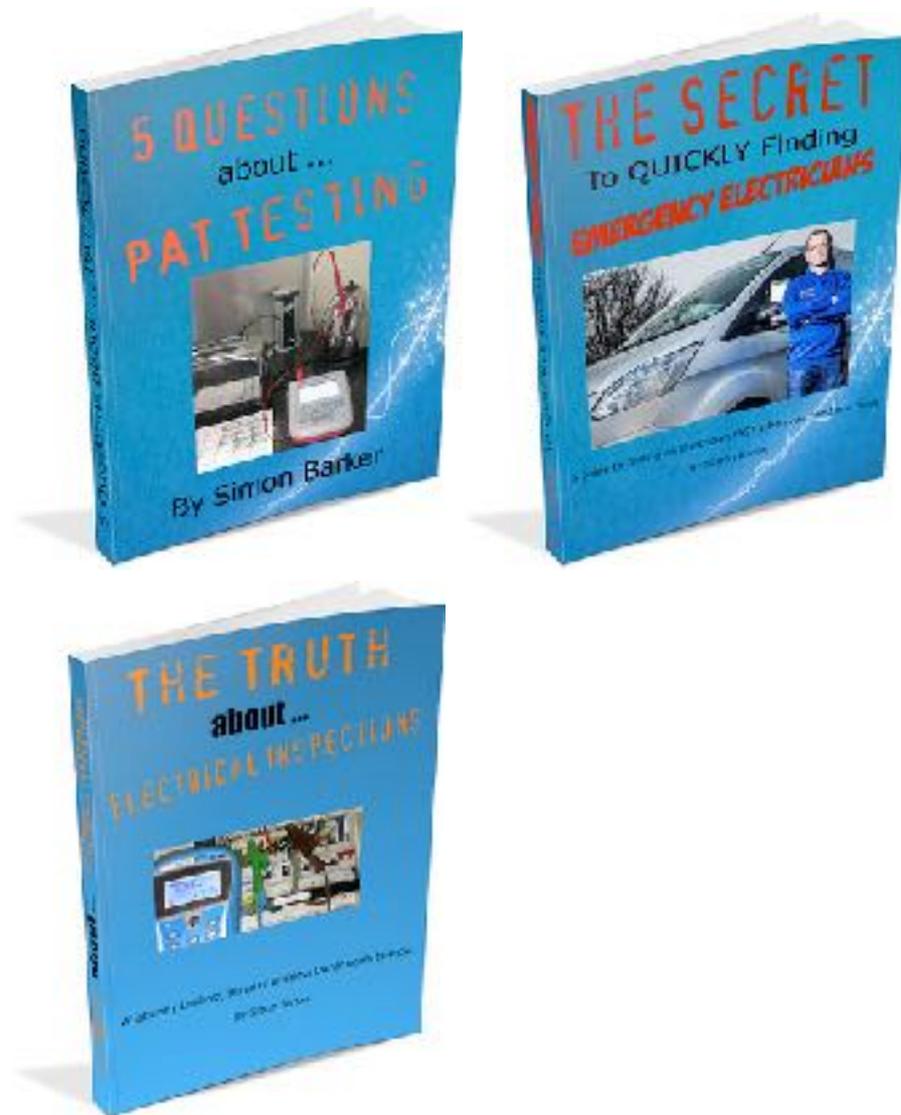


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