

Licensed contractors required for electrical work

If you're planning any remodeling in your home that will require electrical work, make sure your shopping list includes finding a licensed electrical contractor.

To protect the public from electrical work that does not meet Ontario's safety standards, the Ontario government has passed new legislation that requires all electrical contractors to be licensed by the Electrical Contractor Registration Agency of the Electrical Safety Authority. Consumers are now also required

by law to hire only licensed electrical contractors.

"Wiring and electrical work is complicated and if performed incorrectly can result in serious injury or fire," said Peter Marcucci, regulatory affairs vice-president of the Electrical Safety Authority. "This new law ensures consumers are protected against individuals who are not qualified and may perform electrical services that do not meet Ontario's safety standards."

Since 1998, 100 Ontario work-

ers and homeowners have been killed by electrocution, and 2,974 electrical fires have been reported in the Electrical Safety Authority's 2006 Ontario Electrical Safety Report.

Property owners and managers who hire an electrical contractor should ask for the contractor's licence number. The public is encouraged to visit www.plugin-safely.ca or call 1-877-372-7233 to access a list of licensed electrical contractors by location in Ontario.