

Don't be shocked by home renovation

If you're planning on converting your basement, remodelling your kitchen or updating a bathroom — any job that requires electrical work — make sure your shopping list also includes finding a Licenced Electrical Contractor. In an effort to protect the public from electrical work that does not meet Ontario's safety standards, the Ontario government has passed a new law which is being enforced by the province's **Electrical Safety Authority**.

The new legislation, passed earlier this year, requires all electrical contractors to be licenced 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 workers 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.

"We know people want to protect the safety of their family and the property in which they've invested so much time and money. Ontarians can now feel confident that when they hire a Licenced Electrical Contractor, they are hiring someone who is qualified, competent and insured in accordance with the law," said Marcucci.

Property owners and managers in search of a Licenced Electrical Contractor to perform electrical work should ask for the contractor's licence number.