

Deborah Howard



Job title: Electrician

How long have you been in your role?

18 years

How did you get in your role?

I enrolled at college as a mature student doing a Level 2 in Electrotechnical Technology – Installation (Buildings & Structures) to learn how to change a plug. The course was not what I expected but I found it very interesting, and little did I know, electricians rarely change plugs! During the academic year, I learned about the Gentoo apprenticeship programme. When they opened the intake, I successfully applied and completed a 4 year electrical apprenticeship before qualifying as an electrician.

What do you enjoy most about the role?

No two days are the same and most importantly being part of a service that ensures our customers can continue to live in safe and decent homes.

What challenges do you face?

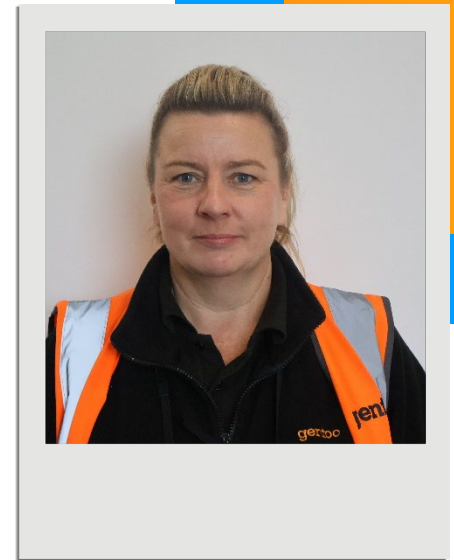
Getting repairs complete first time. Sometimes this is not always possible due to materials being unavailable so it's important to think quickly, be reactive to the situation and carry out temporary repairs until the correct materials can be sourced.

What skills/qualifications do you require for your role?

To qualify as an electrician you have to complete a time served electrical apprenticeship with City & Guilds 2361 part 1 & 2 or hold an NVQ Level 3 equivalent, have the ability to carry out electrical inspection, testing & certification in accordance with BS7671:2018 Regulations to the current Amendments and have good knowledge and understanding of relevant Health & Safety Regulations.

Other skills required would include minor plumbing works associated with electrical works for example connecting water supplies to electric showers, minor plaster patching/making good damage to areas around electrical accessories etc.

Having a flexible approach to work with a logical thought process to fault finding and problem solving is also an advantage.



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What advice would you give to someone considering this as a career option?

Run a mile – no in all seriousness – go for it!

The options for career development are huge - if that's what you want for your future there's a huge variety of specialisms such as ground/air source heating systems, on/offshore wind turbines, electrical design etc. can all be achieved from a career as an electrician.

All in all, being an electrician is a brilliant career option for everyone and I am proof that it's not just a role for men.

