



Must-Have Tools for Every Apprentice

Hand Tools

- **Lineman's pliers (8")** – gripping, twisting, cutting
- **Needle-nose pliers** – tight spaces
- **Diagonal/side cutters** – cutting wires
- **Slip-joint pliers**
- **Tongue-and-groove pliers (Channellocks)**
- **Screwdrivers**
 - Flathead (various sizes)
 - Phillips #1 and #2
 - Multi-bit screwdriver (optional)
- **Electrician's hammer**
- **Utility knife** – cable stripping
- **Tape measure** (25 ft)
- **Level** (torpedo level)
- **Cable shears** or **ratcheting cutters** (for larger cables)
- **Wire strippers** (high-quality, calibrated for AWG sizes)
- **Hex/Allen key set**
- **Wrench set**

Electrical Testing & Safety

- **Non-contact voltage tester (NCVT)**
- **Multimeter (digital)**
- **Continuity tester**
- **GFCI tester**
- **Lockout/Tagout kit**

- **Insulated gloves (rated)**
- **Safety glasses**
- **Hard hat**
- **Steel-toe boots**

Tool Belt / Pouch Items

- **Tool pouch / belt**
 - **Tape loop and hammer holder**
 - **Electrical tape** (black + color coding)
 - **Sharpies and pencils**
 - **Fish tape** (metal or fiberglass)
 - **Cable ties**
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✓ Intermediate Tools (Nice-to-Have for Productivity)

These become important once the apprentice gains more responsibility.

- **Automatic wire strippers**
 - **Label maker** (for panels, cables, conduits)
 - **Headlamp**
 - **Clamp meter** (amps, continuity, voltage)
 - **Conduit reamer**
 - **Stud/joist finder**
 - **Magnetic bits set**
 - **Tubing cutter**
 - **Torpedo level with magnet**
 - **Plug-in circuit analyser**
 - **Insulated screwdriver set (IEC-rated)**
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✓ **Power Tools (If the job requires it)**

Not always required at the apprentice stage, but good to gradually invest in.

- **Cordless drill/driver** (18V or 20V)
- **Impact driver**
- **Reciprocating saw**
- **Angle grinder**
- **Rotary hammer** (for masonry work)
- **Oscillating multi-tool**

Useful drill bits:

- Spade bits
- Step bits
- Masonry bits
- Hole saws

✓ **Conduit & Cable Handling Tools**

- **Conduit bender** (1/2" EMT)
- **Hand bender for 3/4" EMT** (depending on work type)
- **Fish rods**
- **Pulling grips**
- **Lubricant for cable pulling**

✓ **Measurement, Layout & Marking**

- **Laser distance measurer** (optional but useful)
- **Chalk line**
- **Compass/scriber**
- **Voltage tags & markers**

✓ Tool Storage & Organization

- **Tool bag or backpack**
- **Parts organizer** (for screws, wire-nuts, staples)
- **Small tote for daily carry**

⚡ Starter Kit (Simplified List for Beginners)

If you need a tight starter list, here is the **minimum kit**:

1. Lineman's pliers
2. Needle-nose pliers
3. Wire stripper
4. Side cutters
5. Screwdrivers (flat + Phillips)
6. Non-contact voltage tester
7. Digital Multimeter
8. Tape measure
9. Utility knife
10. Electrical tape
11. Tool belt/pouch
12. Safety glasses
13. Hard hat
14. Cordless drill