

Locksmith

Locksmiths install, adjust and repair locks, make keys and change lock combinations. They work on residential and automotive keylocks, and master keylock sets for commercial and institutional use. Locksmiths may also install and maintain more sophisticated security systems.

THE JOB

WORKING CONDITIONS

Some working environments, especially mobile units, may be small and crowded, requiring locksmiths to work in awkward or confined spaces. Those working in mobile units may also be required to work in adverse weather conditions. Light lifting (up to 10 kilograms) is routinely required.

Locksmiths usually work a 40-hour, five-day week, but may be on-call nights and weekends to respond to emergencies. Self-employed locksmiths often work longer hours.

WAGES

Apprentices earn at least 50% of the prevailing journeyperson wage in the first period, 60% in the second, 70% in the third and 80% in the fourth. The average wage for a qualified Locksmith is \$16-\$20 per hour but can be as high as \$30 per hour.

EMPLOYMENT AND ADVANCEMENT

Locksmiths are employed by locksmithing companies, security firms and institutions. Experienced Locksmiths may advance to supervisory positions or set up their own businesses. Most Locksmiths consider this to be a life-long occupation.

THE APPRENTICESHIP

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND AND SKILLS

To enter the Locksmith trade, an applicant must score at least 70% on the Trade Entrance Exam. The applicant must also find an appropriate employer who is willing to hire and train the apprentice.

Students enrolled in Schools North Apprenticeship Program (SNAP) are given special exemption and are required to write the trades entrance examination prior to signing the apprenticeship contract. They must obtain 50% on the examination to be eligible for the program.



Desirable qualities include: mechanical ability; mathematical ability; patience, tact when dealing with the public; good vision and hearing; good eye-hand coordination; good health and stamina; the agility required to climb ladders; and a desire to keep up-to-date with new developments in security equipment. They should enjoy using tools and equipment to perform tasks requiring precision, following established procedures and analyzing locks to locate defects.

APPRENTICESHIP TERM

The term of apprenticeship is four years and includes four employment terms of not less than 1,800 hours each, and four classroom-training periods of eight weeks each.

DESIGNATION

Upon successful completion of the apprenticeship, graduate apprentices receive a Northwest Territories Completion of Apprenticeship Certificate and a Certificate of Qualification.

TRADES QUALIFICATION

Available with 9,000 hours of verified trade experience and written examination.

INTERPROVINCIAL RED SEAL

An Interprovincial Red Seal is not available for this trade.

