



Auto Body Technician – Auto Body Prepper

About this job

Auto body technicians repair the damaged structures and body parts of motor vehicles. The trade includes technical, mechanical, and creative work, restoring both the safety and cosmetic appeal of a wide range of vehicles.



**AUTO BODY PREPPER HOLDS NATIONAL OCCUPATION
CLASSIFICATION (NOC) CODE #7322/72411**

- **Two-year program**
- **Requires out of the territory technical training**
- **Mechanical Industry**

\$84,243

Estimated Average Journeyperson Salary

APPRENTICESHIP, TRADES, AND OCCUPATIONAL CERTIFICATION

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What can I expect to do for work if I become an Auto Body Prepper?

Duties performed include the restoration of anti-corrosion treatments, substrate identification, surface preparation, undercoat product mixing and application.

Auto Body Preppers are involved throughout the collision repair process, often beginning with the application of anti-corrosion compounds while the vehicle is still mounted on the frame repair equipment. A key task in the auto body prepper branch involves applying undercoat products in the correct sequence, ensuring chemical compatibility, adhesion and durability. They also remove and install bolt-on components such as hoods, deck lids, fenders, trim, doors, glass and interior components.

Preppers perform substrate preparation mechanically or chemically as required by the job conditions.

What kind of working conditions can I expect?

Auto Body Prepper usually work a 40-hour, five-day week with occasional overtime required. They work indoors in a noisy, sometimes dusty, environment. Although most shops are well ventilated, the work involves exposure to dust and fumes. There is always some risk of injury involved in working with sharp metals and power tools.

What are some skills that are valued in this profession?

- strength, stamina and the use of proper lifting techniques to handle heavy tools and parts,
- hand skills to perform technical repairs,

- creativity, patience and an eye for detail,
- good colour vision,
- current knowledge of the changes in plastics, electronics, metals, finishes and restraints,
- computer literacy skills,
- good customer service skills, and
- commitment to safe work habits and industry safety programs.

What is the minimum requirement to become an apprentice in this trade?

Apprentices must obtain a minimum of 70% on the Trades Entrance Exam – TEE Category #3 or the equivalent education as outlined below. This must be done before signing the Apprenticeship contract and attending technical training.

How long will it take to complete an Auto Body Technician apprenticeship?

An apprenticeship takes about two years to complete and includes two on the job periods and one technical training period. You need to complete 1800 hours per period, for a total of 3600 hours.

How long is technical training?

Apprentices will attend technical training for a total of 180 hours. Apprentices usually go to school for this program in Alberta.

Eligibility Requirements

Entrance Exam – Pass Exam 3 with a score of 70% or higher
or

Completion of the following high school courses

- English 10-2 (pass) or Literacy 20 (65% or higher)
- Math 10C (pass) or Math 10-3 (65% or higher)
- Science 10 (pass)

or

All five Canadian General Educational Development (GED) tests

SCHOOLS NORTH APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM (SNAP) - SNAP

apprentices are not required to satisfy the entrance requirements prior to signing an apprenticeship contract. However, the SNAP apprentice must satisfy the entrance requirements or write the TEE before attending technical training.

Period	Technical Training ¹	Prerequisites for technical training	Hours ²
1st	6 Weeks 180 hours	Entrance Exam and 900 hours	1800
2nd	On the job training only	Completed 1 st Period	3600

¹Length of In-School Training

²Minimum Time Required to Complete (Includes Technical Training)

For more information:

www.gov.nt.ca/Apprenticeship