



# Oil Heat System Technician (OHST)

## About this job

Oil heat system technicians keep residential and commercial heating systems running smoothly and reliably, an especially important role in the North. They are safety minded, have mechanical aptitude, often work independently, and are flexible about responding to after-hour calls.



OHST HOLDS NATIONAL OCCUPATION CLASSIFICATION  
(NOC) CODE #7331/72420

APPRENTICESHIP, TRADES, AND OCCUPATIONAL CERTIFICATION



- **Three-year program**
- **Red Seal Certificate**
- **Requires out of the territory technical training**
- **Construction**

**\$80,128**

Estimated Average Journeyperson Salary

Aussi disponible en français

## What can I expect to do for work if I become an OHST?

Oil heat system technicians install and maintain oil, coal and wood heating systems in residential and commercial buildings. They may also install, service, or adjust high pressure, low pressure, and vaporizing oil heating systems.

- read and interpret drawings, blueprints or specifications to decide work to be performed,
- lay out oil burner heating system components and assemble components using hand and power tools,
- install oil burner components such as thermostats, motors, piping and safety devices, and connect to fuel supply, ventilation and electrical system,
- test installed unit and adjust controls for proper functioning,
- troubleshoot and repair malfunctioning oil burners, and their components and controls, and
- install, maintain and repair coal and wood heating systems, and
- perform scheduled maintenance service on oil and solid fuel heating systems.

## What kind of working conditions can I expect?

The working conditions for oil heat system technicians vary from one job to another. There may be little protection from the weather if having to work outside, more protection and often comfortable conditions for maintenance and repair work. OHST's typically work a 40 hour work week, however service and emergency calls

may take place days, evenings or week-ends. There may be some risk of injury involved in working with rough metals, power tools and pipe-joining equipment.

## What are some skills that are valued in this profession?

- be fluent in English with reading, writing and mathematical competency;;
- analytical, planning and testing skills,
- mechanical aptitude, and
- ability to follow safety protocols and regulations.

## 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 #2** 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 OHST apprenticeship?

An apprenticeship takes about three years to complete, and includes three on the job periods and three technical training periods. You need to complete 1800 hours per period, for a total of 5400 hours.

## How long is technical training?

Apprentices will attend the program for approximately 20 weeks. Apprentices usually go to school for this program in **New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, or the Yukon**.

### Eligibility Requirements

Entrance Exam – Pass Exam 5 with a score of 70% or higher  
or

Completion of the following high school courses

- English 20-2 (pass) or Literacy 30 (pass)
- Math 10C (pass)
- 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 <sup>1</sup>	Prerequisites for technical training	Hours <sup>2</sup>
1st	6 Weeks 180 hours	Entrance Exam and 900 hours	1800
2nd	6 Weeks 180 hours	Completed 1 <sup>st</sup> Period	3600
3rd	6 Weeks 180 hours	Completed 2 <sup>nd</sup> Period	5400

<sup>1</sup>Length of In-School Training

<sup>2</sup>Minimum Time Required to Complete (Includes Technical Training)

For more information:

[www.gov.nt.ca/Apprenticeship](http://www.gov.nt.ca/Apprenticeship)