



Auto Body Technician – Auto Body Refinisher

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.



- Two-year program
- Eligible for Red Seal Endorsement
- Requires out of the territory technical training
- Mechanical Industry



AUTO BODY REFINISHER FALLS UNDER NATIONAL OCCUPATION CLASSIFICATION (NOC) CODE #7322/72411

\$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 Refinisher?

Auto body refinishers conduct damage appraisals, surface preparation, minor damage repairs, masking, colour matching, priming and top coating.

Auto body refinishers are responsible for the restoration of anti-corrosion treatments, substrate identification, surface preparation, product mixing and application, and accurate colour matching.

Passenger safety in a unibody vehicle is dependent upon rust-free components. Auto body refinishers are involved throughout the collision-repair process, beginning with the application of anti-corrosion compounds.

Auto body refinishers also remove and install bolt-on components such as hoods, deck lids, fenders, trim, doors, glass, and interior components. A key task in this trade involves applying refinish products in the right order-ensuring chemical compatibility, adhesion, and durability. Substrate preparation can be done mechanically with abrasives or chemically.

Complex colour formulations created by automobile manufacturers require that refinishers develop a high skill level in both product chemistry and colour matching.

What kind of working conditions can I expect?

Auto body Refinisher 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 - Refinisher apprenticeship?

An apprenticeship takes about two years to complete and includes two on the job periods and two technical training periods. 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 360 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	6 Weeks 180 hours	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