



Occupational profile



Motor mechanic (general)

Summary Of Occupation

Automotive mechanics work on the mechanical parts of motor vehicles, including the engine, transmission and suspension systems. They fix, maintain, reassemble, restore and overhaul these components and also talk to the vehicles' owner about issues they may be having. Common tasks might include the testing and repairing of electrical lighting systems, the replacement of damaged parts in the engine, or the inspection of vehicles in order to render them safe for the road. Automotive mechanics work right across the state, in service stations, vehicle dealerships, for public authorities such as local governments or defence, transport firms, organisations with fleets of vehicles that need to be maintained and for themselves in their own businesses.

Knowledge Skills and Attributes

An automotive mechanic needs:

- the ability to work well with manual hand tools
- problem-solving skills
- good vision and hearing
- to hold a current drivers license
- technical aptitude

Working Conditions

Automotive mechanics work mainly in garages, workshops and other areas where vehicles are serviced, repaired or maintained. They work with oils, petrol, greases and other chemical products which can cause skin irritation. Mechanics should also be physically fit so they can lift and move heavy tools or machinery. Work areas can quickly become messy and dirty.

Salary Details

On average, automotive mechanics, classified under motor mechanics, can earn between \$1 000 and \$1 249 per week (\$52 000 and \$64 999 per year), depending on the organisation they work for, and their level of experience. As an automotive mechanic develops their skills, their earning potential will generally increase.

Tools and Technologies

Automotive mechanics work mainly with tools and devices used to maintain and repair automotive engines and parts. Safety precautions must always be taken when working with certain machines and devices in the industry, such as when welding. Other tools used in the industry may include spanners, precision measuring devices and spray painting equipment.

Education and Training Entrance Requirements

To become an automotive mechanic, you usually have to complete an apprenticeship in automotive technician (light). The apprenticeship usually takes 42 to 48 months to complete, and is available as a school-based apprenticeship.

To work as an automotive mechanic in Western Australia (WA), you will need to acquire a Motor Vehicle Repairer's Certificate, or work under the supervision of someone who holds a current certificate. The certificate is available from the Commissioner of Consumer Protection at the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety.

A National Police Certificate is required to gain a Motor Vehicle Repairer's Certificate.