

Auto Body Repairer

Straighten, weld and rebuild crashed vehicles. Compulsory trade in Ontario, paid by insurance work.

TYPICAL PAY

\$52,000

a year, full time

PAY RANGE

\$38k to \$75k

starting to experienced

TIME TO QUALIFY

3 to 4 years

after high school

DEMAND

Good

job outlook

LICENCE NEEDED

Yes

regulated job

WHERE YOU WORK

Collision repair shops, dealership body shops, restoration shops

How you get there

- 1 High school diploma** Grade 12
Grade 12 with shop, art or design, and math. OYAP (Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program) lets you start in Grade 11 or 12.
- 2 Find a sponsor** Weeks to months
Collision shops, dealership body shops and big repair chains. Walk in with a resume. Detailing or prep jobs are the usual way in.
- 3 Register the apprenticeship** Days
With Skilled Trades Ontario (trade code 310B), Alberta Apprenticeship and Industry Training, SkilledTradesBC or your province's authority.
- 4 Work and study** 3 to 4 years
Ontario requires 8,000 hours: 7,280 on the job plus 720 in school, taken in three blocks at a college.
- 5 Certificate of Qualification and Red Seal** After your hours
Pass the provincial exam. The Red Seal title is Auto Body and Collision Technician, valid across Canada.

Pros and cons

- + Paid apprenticeship, no student debt
- + Visible results: wrecked car in, straight car out
- + Steady work, crashes happen in every economy
- Dust, fumes and chemicals, respirators every day
- Insurance rates cap your pay
- Flat rate punishes slow weeks and hidden damage

Good to know

Hail is a business

The June 2020 Calgary hailstorm caused about \$1.2 billion in insured damage, one of the costliest disasters in Canadian history, and much of that was dented cars. Body shops booked months of work overnig...

Aluminum changed the trade

Ford's full-size pickup switched to an aluminum body in 2015. Aluminum cannot be repaired with steel tools or welded the same way, so shops built separate clean rooms and retrained.

Optional boosts

Automotive Painter (a second trade). Aluminum and high-strength steel repair. Electric vehicle safety training. ADAS (advanced driver assistance systems) calibration.

Where these numbers come from

Skilled Trades Ontario: Auto Body and Collision Damage Repairer

Skilled Trades Ontario: Automotive Painter

Red Seal Program

Job Bank: Auto body technicians, wages (updated Nov 2025)

Numbers checked September 2026. Pay figures are typical full-time annual amounts in Canadian dollars, based on Government of Canada Job Bank wage data and published salary grids. They vary by province, employer and experience. Tuition is for domestic students. Sources, links and the click-through version: <https://career.help/ca/careers/auto-body-repairer>



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