

Elevator Mechanic

Install and maintain elevators and escalators. One of the best paid trades, and one of the hardest to get into.

TYPICAL PAY

\$94,000

a year, full time

PAY RANGE

\$46k to \$141k

starting to experienced

TIME TO QUALIFY

4 to 6 years

after high school

DEMAND

Good

job outlook

LICENCE NEEDED

Yes

regulated job

WHERE YOU WORK

**Condo towers, office buildings,
hospitals, construction sites**

How you get there

- 1 High school diploma** Grade 12
Grade 12 with math and physics. Many successful applicants also have an electrical or mechanical college program or trade experience.
- 2 Apply to the union** Months to years
IUEC (International Union of Elevator Constructors) Local 50 serves the Greater Toronto Area; other locals cover the rest of Canada. Intakes open rarely, draw far more applicants than spots, and include an aptitude test and interview.
- 3 Register as a mechanic in training** Days
In Ontario you take a safety workshop from an accredited trainer, then register with TSSA (Technical Standards and Safety Authority) as an EDM-T (elevating devices mechanic in training), and with Skilled Trades Ontario as an apprentice.
- 4 Work and study** 4 years
8,000 hours in Ontario: 7,280 on the job with an elevator company plus 720 hours of classroom training, delivered through the union's own course modules in the evenings or in blocks. Installation, hydraulics, motors, controls, wiring and safety codes.
- 5 Licence** After your hours
Pass the TSSA (Technical Standards and Safety Authority) provincial knowledge exam to hold the EDM-A (elevating devices mechanic, class A) licence in Ontario. Skilled Trades Ontario has no certifying exam for this trade; the TSSA exam is the gate. Other provinces license...

Pros and cons

- + Among the best paid trades in Canada, with a strong pension
- + Legally protected work: elevators must be maintained by licensed mechanics
- + Mix of mechanical, electrical and computer skills, never boring
- Extremely hard to get in; you may apply for years
- On-call nights and weekends on service, and people trapped in cars are stressed
- Heights, moving machinery and live electrical every day

Optional boosts

Adjuster. Modernization. Escalators and moving walks. Supervisor or inspector.

Good to know

Toronto's tower boom

Toronto has had one of the highest construction crane counts of any city in North America for years. Every tower needs elevators installed and then serviced for decades, which is why the Toronto local is one...

Safer than the stairs

Elevators are among the safest ways to travel anywhere. Strict inspection and licensed maintenance are the reason, and that is exactly the work this trade does.

Where these numbers come from

Job Bank: Elevator constructors and mechanics, wages (updated Nov 2025)

TSSA: Elevating devices mechanic certification

Skilled Trades Ontario: Elevating Devices Mechanic (636E)

IUEC Local 50 (Toronto)

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/elevator-mechanic>



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