

Endodontist

The root canal specialist. A dentist who did 2 to 3 more years of residency to save teeth other dentists would pull. High pay, long road, no braces or cleanings.

TYPICAL PAY

\$250,000

a year, full time

PAY RANGE

\$150k to \$400k

starting to experienced

TIME TO QUALIFY

10 to 11 years

after high school

DEMAND

Good

job outlook

LICENCE NEEDED

Yes

regulated job

WHERE YOU WORK

Private specialty clinics, dental schools, hospitals

How you get there

- 1 High school** Grades 11 and 12
Biology, chemistry, physics, math and English with top marks.
- 2 University, then the DAT (dental aptitude test)** 2 to 4 years
2 to 4 years of science courses, then the dental admission test.
- 3 Dental school** 4 years
4 years for a DDS (doctor of dental surgery) or DMD (doctor of dental medicine). You graduate as a general dentist.
- 4 Endodontics residency** 2 to 3 years, plus any practice years
2 to 3 years at a dental school accredited by the Canadian Dental Association, usually with a master's degree attached. Only a few seats per program. Most programs want a year or more of general practice first.
- 5 Specialty exam and licence** A few months
Pass the NDSE (National Dental Specialty Examination), then register as a specialist with your provincial dental college.

Pros and cons

- + Among the highest pay in dentistry
- + You end people's pain the same day
- + Daytime hours, no nights
- 10 to 11 years of school, and residency charges tuition
- Residency seats are scarce
- Debt that can pass \$400,000

Good to know

The root canal is not the painful part

The infection is what hurts. The root canal removes it. With modern freezing, most patients feel nothing during the procedure, and the relief afterward is why endodontists have some of the happiest patients.

Work you can only see through a microscope

The canals inside a tooth root can be narrower than a human hair. Endodontists work through a surgical microscope, and 3D imaging is now standard to find canals that older X-rays missed.

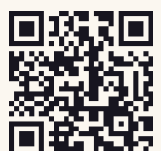
Optional boosts

Microsurgery. 3D imaging. Referral network. Teaching and research.

Where these numbers come from

Job Bank: Endodontists, wages (updated Nov 2025)
Canadian Academy of Endodontics
National Dental Specialty Examination: fees
Royal College of Dentists of Canada

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/endodontist>



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