

Glazier

Install the glass on towers, storefronts and homes, from a shower door to a 40-storey curtain wall.

TYPICAL PAY

\$62,000

a year, full time

PAY RANGE

\$40k to \$90k

starting to experienced

TIME TO QUALIFY

4 to 5 years

after high school

DEMAND

Moderate

job outlook

LICENCE NEEDED

No

anyone can do it

WHERE YOU WORK

High-rise sites, storefronts, glass shops, homes

How you get there

- 1 High school diploma** Grade 12
 Grade 12 with math and shop. Some provinces let you start through a high school apprenticeship program.
- 2 Find a sponsor** Weeks to months
 A glass and glazing contractor, a window manufacturer or the union hall. Shop helper is a common first job.
- 3 Register the apprenticeship** Days
 With Skilled Trades Ontario (where the trade is called Architectural Glass and Metal Technician), Alberta Apprenticeship and Industry Training, or your province's trades body.
- 4 Work and study** 4 years
 About 8,000 hours in Ontario: 7,280 on the job plus 720 hours in class, usually three levels of about 8 weeks at a college.
- 5 Certificate of Qualification and Red Seal** After your hours
 Pass the provincial exam. The Red Seal endorsement lets you work in any province.

Pros and cons

- + Paid from day one, no debt
- + Less seasonal than most outdoor trades
- + Your work is the most visible part of a building
- Heights and wind on commercial work
- Glass is heavy, sharp and unforgiving; cuts and strains are common
- Four years is longer than most construction apprenticeships

Good to know

The glass does not hold the building up

A curtain wall is a skin hung from the floor slabs, not a structural wall. The concrete or steel frame carries the weight. The glaziers' job is to hang that skin straight and keep the weather out.

One panel, hundreds of kilograms

A single unitized panel on a modern tower, glass and frame together, can weigh several hundred kilograms. It is lifted by crane or hoist and set by a small crew using suction cups and anchors.

Optional boosts

Red Seal endorsement. Curtain wall and unitized systems. Suspended access and swing stage tickets. Shop fabrication.

Where these numbers come from

Job Bank: Glaziers, wages (updated Nov 2025)
 Red Seal Program: Glazier
 Skilled Trades Ontario
 Alberta Apprenticeship (Tradeseecrets)

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/glazier>



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