

Locksmith

Locks, keys, safes and access systems. A hands-on trade that is quietly going electronic.

TYPICAL PAY

\$72,000

a year, full time

PAY RANGE

\$45k to \$100k

starting to experienced

TIME TO QUALIFY

2 to 4 years

after high school

DEMAND

Moderate

job outlook

LICENCE NEEDED

No

anyone can do it

WHERE YOU WORK

**Locksmith shops, service vans,
institutions, security companies**

How you get there

- 1 High school diploma** Grade 12
Shop, math and any electronics course. A clean record matters: employers and licensing bodies check.
- 2 Get hired by a locksmith shop** Weeks to months
Most start as a helper cutting keys and doing rekeys. A security guard or alarm background helps.
- 3 Register an apprenticeship (optional)** Days
Ontario has a Locksmith apprenticeship (trade code 259L). Alberta runs a 3-period program: 1,560 hours of work plus 8 weeks of class each year.
- 4 Work and learn** 2 to 4 years
Residential, then commercial hardware, then safes, automotive keys and electronic access control.
- 5 Certificate (where offered)** After your hours
Alberta issues a Journeyperson Certificate after the exam. Ontario issues a Certificate of Apprenticeship, with no final exam.

Pros and cons

- + Learn on the job with almost no debt
- + Steady demand: locks break in good years and bad
- + Easy to go self-employed
- On-call nights and weekends
- Small shops often mean no benefits
- Criminal record checks and licensing in some provinces

Good to know

BC licenses locksmiths like security guards

In BC, locksmithing is a licensed security activity under the same rules as security guards and alarm installers. You need fingerprints, a criminal record check and a security worker licence before your first...

Alberta trains locksmiths as a trade

Alberta runs a formal Locksmith apprenticeship: 3 periods of 1,560 hours of work experience, each with 8 weeks of classroom training. Certification is optional, but the Journeyperson Certificate is the trad...

Optional boosts

Safe and vault work. Automotive keys and transponders. Electronic access control. Master key systems.

Where these numbers come from

Job Bank: Locksmith, wages (updated Nov 2025)

Skilled Trades Ontario: Locksmith (259L)

Alberta Apprenticeship and Industry Training: Locksmith trade profile

Government of BC: Security worker licence (locksmiths)

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/locksmith>



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