

Marine Mechanic

Outboards, sterndrives and boat systems. A short apprenticeship and a summer spent at the marina.

TYPICAL PAY

\$62,000

a year, full time

PAY RANGE

\$42k to \$83k

starting to experienced

TIME TO QUALIFY

2 to 3 years

after high school

DEMAND

Moderate

job outlook

LICENCE NEEDED

No

anyone can do it

WHERE YOU WORK

Marinas, boat dealerships, yacht clubs, fishing fleets

How you get there

- 1 High school diploma** Grade 12
Shop, math and physics. Boating experience helps a lot. OYAP (Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program) can start you early.
- 2 Find a sponsor** Weeks to months
Marinas and boat dealers hire in spring. Start as a yard hand or rigger if you have to.
- 3 Register the apprenticeship** Days
Skilled Trades Ontario calls it Marine Engine Technician (435B). Alberta covers it under Outdoor Power Equipment Technician, Recreational Equipment branch.
- 4 Work and study** 2 to 3 years
Ontario: 5,000 hours, 4,280 on the job plus 720 in school. Alberta: 3 periods of 1,000 hours with 6 to 8 weeks of class each.
- 5 Certificate of Qualification** After your hours
Pass the provincial exam. It is not a Red Seal trade, so the ticket is provincial.

Pros and cons

- + Shortest apprenticeship among the mechanic trades
- + Work by the water, sea trials on sunny days
- + Paid while training, little debt
- Seasonal in most of the country
- Summer means 50-hour weeks and impatient boaters
- Flat rate and small marinas mean thin pay some weeks

Good to know

The world's longest coastline

Canada has more coastline than any other country, plus the Great Lakes and millions of inland lakes. That is a lot of outboards, and every one needs a mechanic sooner or later.

Sea-Doo is Canadian

Bombardier Recreational Products of Valcourt, Quebec builds Sea-Doo personal watercraft and Rotax marine engines. Its dealers across Canada need technicians certified on its products.

Optional boosts

Manufacturer master technician. Marine electrical. Diesel and inboard. Powersports and small engines.

Where these numbers come from

Job Bank: Marine technician, wages (updated Nov 2025)

Skilled Trades Ontario: Marine Engine Technician (435B)

Alberta Apprenticeship and Industry Training: Outdoor Power Equipment Technician, Recreational Equipment

Government of Canada: Canada Apprentice Loan

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/marine-mechanic>



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