

Millwright

Install, fix and keep running the machines inside mines, mills and factories. The Red Seal name is Industrial Mechanic (Millwright).

TYPICAL PAY

\$80,000

a year, full time

PAY RANGE

\$55k to \$110k

starting to experienced

TIME TO QUALIFY

4 to 5 years

after high school

DEMAND

Good

job outlook

LICENCE NEEDED

No

anyone can do it

WHERE YOU WORK

Factories, mines, pulp mills, power plants

How you get there

- 1 High school diploma** Grade 12
Grade 12 math, physics and shop. OYAP (Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program) lets Ontario students start in Grade 11 or 12.
- 2 Find a sponsor** Weeks to months
Manufacturing plants, mines, mills, food plants, hydro utilities or an industrial contractor. A 1-year college mechanical techniques program helps you get hired.
- 3 Register the apprenticeship** Days
Ontario registers Industrial Mechanic Millwright with Skilled Trades Ontario. Alberta and BC use their own trades authorities.
- 4 Work and study** 4 years
8,000 hours in Ontario: 7,280 on the job plus 720 in school, taken as three college blocks of about 8 weeks. Precision alignment, bearings, gearboxes, conveyors, pumps, hydraulics, welding, rigging and reading drawings.
- 5 Certificate of Qualification and Red Seal** After your hours
Pass the provincial exam and add the Red Seal endorsement to work in any province.

Pros and cons

- + Broad skill set: mechanical, hydraulics, welding, some electrical
- + Top-tier trade pay, especially at mines and unionized plants
- + Every industry needs you: food, auto, mining, forestry, power
- Shift work, on-call and shutdown overtime break up your life
- Dirty, loud and heavy: gearboxes, grease, and machinery that can crush
- Plants and mines close, and towns built around them lose the jobs

Optional boosts

Welding tickets from the CWB (Canadian Welding Bureau). Hydraulics and pneumatics specialist. Laser alignment and vibration analysis. Electrical or PLC (programmable logic controller) basics.

Good to know

One of the oldest job titles

Millwrights were originally the people who built and repaired water mills and windmills, with gears and shafts made of wood. The name stayed while the machines became conveyors and turbines.

Alignment in hundredths

Two shafts joined by a coupling must line up within a few hundredths of a millimetre or the bearings die early. Millwrights measure this with laser tools on machines the size of a truck.

Where these numbers come from

Job Bank: Industrial mechanics and millwrights, wages (updated Nov 2025)
Red Seal Program: Industrial Mechanic (Millwright)
Skilled Trades Ontario: Industrial Mechanic Millwright (433A)
Alberta Apprenticeship and Industry Training

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/millwright>



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