

Pest Control Technician

Bed bugs, mice, wasps and termites. Licensed in months, hired fast, never boring.

TYPICAL PAY

\$54,000

a year, full time

PAY RANGE

\$40k to \$78k

starting to experienced

TIME TO QUALIFY

up to 1 year

after high school

DEMAND

Good

job outlook

LICENCE NEEDED

Yes

regulated job

WHERE YOU WORK

Homes, restaurants, warehouses, apartment buildings, service vans

How you get there

- 1 High school diploma** Grade 12
Biology and chemistry help. A driver's licence is essential.
- 2 Get hired as a trainee** Weeks
Pest control companies hire year-round and train from scratch. You work under direct supervision at first.
- 3 Technician certificate** 1 to 3 months
In Ontario, pass the Core Manual exam with 75% or better plus practical training from a licensed exterminator. Then you can work with weekly supervision.
- 4 Exterminator licence** Within the first year
Pass the ministry-approved exam: a 1-hour closed-book core exam and a 1.5-hour open-book structural module, 75% on both. Then apply for the licence, valid 5 years.
- 5 Specialize** Ongoing
Fumigation, wildlife, bird control or food-plant audits.

Pros and cons

- + Hired and licensed fast, no tuition
- + Steady year-round work in any economy
- + Alone in a van most of the day, real independence
- Crawlspace, attics, heat and cold
- Pesticide exposure, so safety rules must be followed every time
- Some customers and infestations are grim

Good to know

Two exams, both open to teens

Ontario lets you apply for an exterminator licence at 16. The certification is a 1-hour closed-book core exam plus a 1.5-hour open-book module, 50 multiple-choice questions each, and you need...

Bed bugs came back

Bed bugs were nearly gone from Canada by the 1950s and returned in the 2000s as older pesticides were banned and travel grew. Treating them is now a large share of urban pest control work.

Optional boosts

Fumigation licence. Wildlife control. Food-plant and audit work. Bed bug heat treatment.

Where these numbers come from

Job Bank: Pest control technician, wages (updated Nov 2025)

Ontario: Pesticide licences and permits

Ontario Pesticide Training and Certification: Exterminator

Ontario Pesticide Training and Certification: Technician

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/pest-control-technician>



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