

Security Systems Technician

Install and fix alarms, cameras and door access systems. Learn on the job, no degree needed.

TYPICAL PAY

\$70,000

a year, full time

PAY RANGE

\$45k to \$89k

starting to experienced

TIME TO QUALIFY

1 to 3 years

after high school

DEMAND

Good

job outlook

LICENCE NEEDED

No

anyone can do it

WHERE YOU WORK

**Homes, offices, warehouses,
service vans**

How you get there

- 1 High school diploma** Grade 12
Math, physics and any computer or tech class. A driver's licence matters more than marks here.
- 2 Optional short program** 0 to 1 year
A one-year college certificate in electrical techniques, network cabling or electronics. Not required, but it gets you hired faster.
- 3 Get hired and licensed** Weeks
Alarm companies, telecom contractors and electrical contractors hire helpers. In BC and Alberta you need a security worker licence with a criminal record check before you can touch an alarm system.
- 4 Learn on the job** 1 to 3 years
Pull cable, mount cameras and panels, then learn to program them. The Alarm Technician Course from CANASA (Canadian Security Association) is the industry's own training, delivered online with Centennial College.
- 5 Optional apprenticeship** 2 to 3 years
Ontario's Network Cabling Specialist trade is 4,600 hours, about two and a half years, and covers much of the same cabling and low-voltage work.

Pros and cons

- + Hired and paid with no degree
- + Mix of hands-on work and computer work
- + Steady demand, security spending rarely stops
- Ladders, attics and crawlspaces in all weather
- On-call nights and weekends when alarms fail
- Residential sales pressure at some alarm companies

Good to know

Cameras are computers now

Most new security cameras are IP (internet protocol) devices that plug into a network, not a video recorder. That is why technicians who understand networking get the best jobs.

The industry has its own association

CANASA (Canadian Security Association) has represented alarm and security companies since 1977. It runs the Alarm Technician Course, the closest thing the field has to a national credential.

Optional boosts

Manufacturer certifications. Fire alarm technician (CFAA, the Canadian Fire Alarm Association). Network skills. Electrician apprenticeship.

Where these numbers come from

Job Bank: Communication systems technicians, wages (updated Nov 2025)
CANASA (Canadian Security Association): training and the Alarm Technician Course
Government of BC: security worker licence
Skilled Trades Ontario: Network Cabling Specialist (631A)

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/security-systems-technician>



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