

Small Engine Mechanic

Mowers, chainsaws, generators and snowblowers. A short apprenticeship and a busy spring.

TYPICAL PAY

\$50,000

a year, full time

PAY RANGE

\$32k to \$67k

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

**Equipment dealers, rental shops,
hardware stores, golf courses**

How you get there

- 1 High school diploma** Grade 12
Shop and math. OYAP (Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program) or a co-op at a dealer can start you early.
- 2 Find a sponsor** Weeks to months
Equipment dealers, rental shops, golf courses and hardware stores with a repair counter. Spring is when they hire.
- 3 Register the apprenticeship** Days
Skilled Trades Ontario calls it Small Engine Technician (435A). Alberta calls it Outdoor Power Equipment Technician, Power Equipment branch.
- 4 Work and study** 2 to 3 years
Ontario: 5,000 hours, 4,520 on the job plus 480 in school. Alberta: 3 periods of 1,000 hours, each with 6 to 8 weeks of class.
- 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 in the mechanic trades
- + Cheap to start your own shop
- + Endless variety of machines
- Lowest pay of the mechanic trades
- Seasonal rushes and quiet winters
- Small shops rarely offer benefits

Good to know

Half the hours of a car mechanic

Ontario's Small Engine Technician apprenticeship is 5,000 hours, about 2.5 years. An automotive service technician apprenticeship in the same province is 7,220 hours. Same kind of work, much shorter r...

Alberta splits the trade in two

Alberta's Outdoor Power Equipment Technician trade has two branches: Power Equipment (mowers, generators, chainsaws, golf carts) and Recreational Equipment (snowmobiles, boats, personal wa...

Optional boosts

Marine engine technician. Powersports. Turf equipment. Battery and electric equipment.

Where these numbers come from

Job Bank: Mechanic, small engines, wages (updated Nov 2025)

Skilled Trades Ontario: Small Engine Technician (435A)

Alberta Apprenticeship and Industry Training: Outdoor Power Equipment Technician, Power 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/small-engine-mechanic>



Scan for the full clicker