

Solar Panel Installer

Put solar panels on roofs and fields. Fast to start, outdoors, and growing every year.

TYPICAL PAY

\$54,000

a year, full time

PAY RANGE

\$39k to \$83k

starting to experienced

TIME TO QUALIFY

up to 2 years

after high school

DEMAND

Good

job outlook

LICENCE NEEDED

No

anyone can do it

WHERE YOU WORK

Rooftops, solar farms, service vans, warehouses

How you get there

- 1 High school diploma** Grade 12
Math and physics help. A driver's licence and comfort on a roof matter most.
- 2 Safety tickets** Days
Working at heights or fall protection, plus WHMIS (workplace hazardous materials). One or two days each. Employers often pay.
- 3 Get hired as an installer** Weeks
Solar companies and electrical contractors hire labourers each spring. You start by carrying panels and bolting racking to roofs.
- 4 Learn the system** 1 to 2 years
Racking, panels, DC (direct current) wiring, inverters, batteries. Short manufacturer and college courses fill in the theory.
- 5 Optional: electrician apprenticeship** 4 to 5 years
Four to five years to a Red Seal Construction Electrician ticket. It is the standard way to move from installer to the person who signs off the job.

Pros and cons

- + Start with no school and no debt
- + Outdoor, physical, visible results every day
- + Fast-growing industry with more work each year
- Seasonal in much of Canada, winter layoffs are common
- Roof work in heat, wind and cold, with real fall risk
- Starting pay is low for the physical effort

Good to know

Solar got cheap fast

The Canadian Renewable Energy Association says the cost of solar technology fell by more than 83% between 2009 and 2025. That is why panels went from a luxury to a normal home upgrade.

Canada's renewables are set to double

The Canadian Renewable Energy Association expects Canada's installed wind, solar and storage capacity to grow by a third in four years and double within a decade. Every one of those panels needs s...

Optional boosts

Electrician apprenticeship and Red Seal. Battery storage training. EV (electric vehicle) charger installation. Solar design and sales.

Where these numbers come from

Job Bank: Solar panel installers, wages (updated Nov 2025)
Red Seal Program: Construction Electrician
CanREA (Canadian Renewable Energy Association)
CanREA: Go Solar Guide

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/solar-installer>



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