

Appliance Repair Technician

Fix fridges, washers and ovens in people's homes. Almost no school, and you can own the business by 30.

TYPICAL PAY

\$50,990

a year, full time

PAY RANGE

\$36k to \$81k

starting to experienced

TIME TO QUALIFY

1 to 2 years

after high school

DEMAND

Moderate

job outlook

LICENCE NEEDED

No

anyone can do it

WHERE YOU WORK

**Customers' homes, service vans,
repair shops, retailer service depa...**

How you get there

- 1 High school diploma** Grade 12
Shop class and basic electrical knowledge help. A clean driving record matters more than your grades.
- 2 Get hired as a trainee** Right away
Retailer service departments, independent shops and warranty companies all hire and train. Some run registered apprenticeships.
- 3 Ride along and learn** 6 to 12 months
Six months to a year with an experienced technician before you are sent out alone.
- 4 Refrigerant certification** A day of study
Required by federal law before you can work on anything sealed that holds refrigerant, which means every fridge and freezer.
- 5 Factory and brand training** Ongoing
Manufacturers certify technicians on their own products. More brands means more calls you can take.

Pros and cons

- + You can start with no debt and no degree
- + Paid from your first week
- + You work alone, in your own territory, with no one watching
- Pay tops out lower than most other trades
- Lifting a washer up basement stairs is hard on your back and knees
- Customers are often already angry when you arrive

Optional boosts

Refrigerant handling certification. Professional Service Association certification. Heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) training. Brand authorization.

Good to know

Letting refrigerant out is a federal offense

Section 608 of the Clean Air Act bans intentionally venting refrigerants while servicing or scrapping cooling equipment. That single rule is why appliance technicians need certification before tou...

The skill is finding the fault, not turning the screw

Swapping a part is straightforward. Working out which of five possible failures caused the symptom, without replacing parts at the customer's expense until something works, is the job.

Where these numbers come from

My Next Move: Home Appliance Repairers (49-9031.00)
Professional Service Association, the appliance service industry body
United States Environmental Protection Agency: Section 608 refrigerant rules
Apprenticeship.gov, the United States Department of Labor apprenticeship site

Numbers checked September 2026. Pay figures are typical full-time annual amounts in United States dollars, based on Bureau of Labor Statistics wage data and published pay scales. They vary by state, employer and experience. Tuition is for in-state students at public schools unless the card says otherwise. Sources, links and the click-through version: <https://career.help/us/careers/appliance-repair-technician>



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