

Auto Glass Technician

Cut out a cracked windshield, bond in a new one, and leave the car as strong as it was before.

TYPICAL PAY

\$47,630

a year, full time

PAY RANGE

\$35k to \$71k

starting to experienced

TIME TO QUALIFY

up to 1 year

after high school

DEMAND

Moderate

job outlook

LICENCE NEEDED

No

anyone can do it

WHERE YOU WORK

Auto glass shops, mobile service vans, dealerships, body shops

How you get there

- 1 High school diploma or GED (General Educational Development test)** Grade 12
Shop class helps. A clean driving record matters more than your grades, because you will be insured to drive a company van.
- 2 Get hired as a trainee** Weeks
National chains and independent shops both hire people with no experience at all.
- 3 Ride along and learn** A few weeks to a year
You start by helping, then cut out and set glass under supervision. Adhesive handling and cure times are the serious part.
- 4 Get certified** After training
The Auto Glass Safety Council certifies technicians against the American National Standards Institute safety standard for auto glass replacement. Registered member shops require it.
- 5 Add calibration work** 1 to 3 years in
Learning to recalibrate the cameras behind the windshield is the skill that raises your pay fastest.

Pros and cons

- + No tuition and no student debt
- + Trained and earning within weeks
- + You work alone, outside, with your own van
- Glass cuts, back strain and kneeling all day
- Weather wrecks the schedule
- Piece rate pushes you to hurry on a safety job

Good to know

Your windshield holds the roof up

A bonded windshield is part of the car's structure. In a rollover it helps stop the roof crushing, and in a frontal crash it backstops the passenger airbag so the bag catches the passenger instead of pushi...

Two different kinds of glass in one car

The windshield is laminated: two sheets of glass with a plastic layer in between, so it cracks but stays in one piece. Side and rear windows are usually tempered, so they break into small blunt cubes instead of...

Optional boosts

Camera and sensor recalibration. Auto Glass Safety Council certification. Truck and heavy equipment glass. Chip and crack repair.

Where these numbers come from

My Next Move: Automotive Glass Installers and Repairers

Auto Glass Safety Council: standards and technician certification

Universal Technical Institute: Collision Repair and Refinish Technology

Apprenticeship.gov: Registered Apprenticeship, US Department of Labor

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/auto-glass-technician>



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