

Glazier

Cut, lift and set the glass in storefronts, skyscrapers and houses. Paid from your first day of training.

TYPICAL PAY

\$57,080

a year, full time

PAY RANGE

\$37k to \$90k

starting to experienced

TIME TO QUALIFY

3 to 4 years

after high school

DEMAND

Moderate

job outlook

LICENCE NEEDED

No

anyone can do it

WHERE YOU WORK

**Construction sites, storefronts,
high-rise buildings, glass shops**

How you get there

- 1 High school diploma** Grade 12
Shop, math and physical education all help. A diploma or equivalent is the usual minimum, and some programs take people without one.
- 2 Find a sponsor** Weeks to months
A union local or a glass contractor that will take you on. This is the hard step. Applications open on a schedule, so ask early and keep asking.
- 3 Register the apprenticeship** Days
Registered programs are approved by the United States Department of Labor or a state apprenticeship agency, which is what makes the credential portable.
- 4 Work and study** About 4 years
Roughly four years of paid work on site plus classroom hours each year, covering cutting, setting, sealants, framing systems and safety.
- 5 Journey-level glazier** After your hours
You come out with a nationally recognized completion certificate and the full rate of pay.

Pros and cons

- + No student debt, paid from the first day
- + Fully qualified in about four years
- + Skills work in commercial, residential and auto glass
- Heavy lifting, heights, cuts and cold weather
- Construction slows down in a downturn and in winter in the north
- Glass is expensive to break, so the pressure to be careful is constant

Optional boosts

Scaffold, aerial lift and swing stage training. Welding. Auto glass certification. Online glazing courses.

Good to know

Glass is heavier than it looks

A sheet of quarter-inch glass weighs a bit over 3 pounds per square foot. A standard 4 foot by 8 foot sheet is therefore around 100 pounds, and the insulated double units on an office tower are much...

A skyscraper's glass holds up nothing

The glass skin on a tall building is called a curtain wall because it hangs off the structure rather than supporting it. It carries its own weight and the wind, and nothing else. Installing it is the best paid work in th...

Where these numbers come from

My Next Move: Glaziers (47-2121.00)
O*NET OnLine: Glaziers, employment and registered apprenticeships
Apprenticeship.gov: the national apprenticeship finder
International Union of Painters and Allied Trades

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/glazier>



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