Can Women be Autobody Technicians? **YES!**

*“When you have the passion and drive to do something, it doesn’t matter if you are a woman or man. Anything is possible if you want to do it.”*—Desiree Torwan

Auto body repairers fix or replace the damaged parts of vehicle bodies and frames.

Repairers use several methods to restore damaged cars. They remove ruined sections and replace them with new parts. Auto body repairers use cutting tools, such as metal-cutting guns, to cut through and remove metal body parts. Then they weld new panels in their place.

**Idaho Wages**

**Hourly Range** $8.73 to $25.23  
**Median Wage** $14.95

Regardless of Gender Autobody Technicians need to:

**Communicate**
- Express ideas clearly when speaking.
- Listen to customers, ask questions, and understand them when they speak. Read and understand technical manuals and drawings.

**Work with Things**
- Determine the tools and equipment needed to do a job.
- Repair vehicles and their mechanical systems.
- Determine the causes of technical problems and find solutions for them.
- Install equipment and wiring so that they meet specifications. Maintain equipment on a routine basis. Determine when and what kind of maintenance is needed.

**Perceive and Visualize**
- Imagine how something will look if it is moved around or its parts are rearranged.
- Quickly and accurately compare letters, numbers, objects, pictures, or patterns.
- Identify a pattern (a figure, object, word, or sound) that is hidden in distracting material.

*Idaho Employment*

751 jobs—Large occupation  
18%—annual growth  
Nationally, women make up 0.6% of the labor force. (Source: US Dept of Labor, 2006)

**Job Outlook**

As the population increases, so will the number of vehicles on the road. This means there will probably be more accidents and more vehicles needing repair. In addition, new cars are made of steel alloys, aluminum, and plastics. These materials are harder to repair than the steel parts of older cars. Plus, these materials tend to be damaged more in an accident. This means there is more work to be done when repairing vehicles and it can take more time to make the repair.

Preparation

To work as an autobody technician, you must:

- have a high school diploma or GED;
- complete a formal training program; and complete on-the-job training.

**Technical and Associate of Applied Science degrees are offered at the College of Southern Idaho.**

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