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

“Just because you’re a female doesn’t mean you’re less qualified than anyone else. Be confident in your knowledge and do the best job you can.”—Cindy Jo Edwards

Automobile mechanics inspect, maintain, and repair cars and light trucks.

Auto mechanics perform routine service on cars and light trucks to keep them running well. They inspect and lubricate engines and parts. They often follow a checklist to be sure they examine potential trouble spots. Belts, hoses, plugs, brakes, and fuel systems are items mechanics watch closely. In addition, mechanics may install or repair accessories, such as heaters and windshield wipers.

Auto mechanics use a variety of tools. They use power tools such as pneumatic wrenches to remove bolts quickly. They use machine tools such as lathes and grinding machines to rebuild brakes. They use welding and flame-cutting equipment to remove and repair exhaust systems. They also use jacks and hoists to lift cars and engines. In addition, mechanics use common hand tools, such as screwdrivers and pliers, to work on small parts. Some mechanics use electronic equipment. For example, they may use infrared engine analyzers and computerized diagnostic devices. These devices diagnose problems and make precise adjustments.

**Idaho Wages**

**Hourly wage** $8.59 to $24.10  
**Median wage** $15.41

**Preparation**

To work as an automobile mechanic, you must:

- have a high school diploma or GED;
- complete a formal training program;
- complete on-the-job training;
- have good math and computer skills; and have good manual dexterity.

**Job Outlook**

As the population grows, so will the number of motor vehicles. All those new cars and trucks, as well as the old ones, will require maintenance and service. While maintenance can be put off for a short period, car owners are more likely to keep this up even when the economy is poor. This is because most people rely on their cars to get to work so owners need to make sure their cars keep running.

Most jobs for mechanics are at repair shops and auto dealerships. The number of jobs at these locations will continue to grow. Faster growth may occur at shops that specialize in oil changes, brake repair, and other minor repairs.

**Idaho Employment**

4,409 jobs—Very Large  
23%—annual growth  
216—annual openings very high

Nationally, women make up 1.6% of the labor force.  

For More Information

College of Southern Idaho—Center for New Directions  
Non Traditional Occupations Program.  
To contact call 732-6688

CSI Automotive Program  
Call David Rodriguez—732-6334

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