Can Women be Heating and A/C Technicians?

**YES!**

“I’m not sitting behind a desk. I’m constantly doing something different every day. It’s a good thing to have strong hands, a good back and good knees. It’s important to be headstrong and confident.” — Julie Brewer

Regardless of Gender HVACR Technicians must:

- Read blueprints, specifications, and manufacturers' instructions.
- Talk with owners to find out about problems and discuss recommended changes.
- Install oil, gas, electric, and other types of heating systems.
- Install fuel and supply lines and pumps.
- Cut or drill holes, fabricate ductwork, and install ducts.
- Connect electrical wiring and controls and check system operation.
- Service and adjust burners and blowers during routine service. Clean and oil parts. Replace filters and clean vents and ducts.
- Check thermostats, nozzles, and controls when system does not work properly.
- Install air conditioning and refrigeration equipment.
- Install motors, compressors, condensing units, evaporators, piping, and other components.
- Connect equipment to ductwork, refrigerant lines, and electrical power sources.
- Charge system with refrigerant and check for proper operation.
- Set or program controls.
- Diagnose problems by testing parts such as compressors, relays, and thermostats.
- Inspect, test, repair, and maintain equipment.
- Conserve, recover, and recycle refrigerants when servicing cooling systems.
- Use a variety of hand and power tools, welding equipment, and meters and gauges.
- Keep records of repairs and replacements.

Idaho Wages

**Hourly wage** $10.27 to $24.45  
**Median wage** $17.14

Preparation

To work as a heating and cooling system technician, you must:

- have a high school diploma or GED;
- complete a formal training program;
- complete on-the-job training; and have mechanical aptitude;
- **CSI offers a Technical Certificate and an Associates of Applied Science Degree.**

Idaho Employment

1,503 jobs — Large occupation  
42% — annual growth  
82 — very high annual openings

Nationally, women make up 2.7% of the HVACR labor force.  

Job Outlook

As the population and economy grow, so will the demand for systems that control the indoor climate. Even if the level of new construction slows down, the demand for mechanics who repair and maintain these systems should remain stable. In addition, concern for the environment should lead to the development of more efficient systems.

Technicians will be needed to replace or modify current equipment. The continuing focus on improving indoor air quality should also spur growth in this field. Highly skilled heating and cooling system technicians will have the best prospects.

For More Information Contact

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**Center for New Directions**  
**Non Tradition Occupations — 732-6688**  
**CSI HVACR Program**  
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