



**LIVE YOUR PASSION**

**What does it  
take to become an  
Auto Mechanic?**





Auto mechanics are professionals that repair and maintain motor vehicles of all types. An automechanic may choose to provide general repair services or specialise in a system, such as engines or transmissions. Some automechanics work on a specific type of vehicle. Those who work for dealerships almost always have training on that particular brand of vehicle. In smaller businesses, their duties may include a full range of repair and maintenance services. In larger businesses, they may specialise in certain areas, such as brakes, transmissions or air conditioning systems.

### Skills and Knowledge

The type of work auto mechanics do has changed significantly over the years. They must now be skilled in working on electronic systems and in addition to strong mechanical skills, have good computer skills to be able to use computer systems to diagnose and analyze the performance of a modern vehicle. The tools of the trade, such as power and hand tools, also require physical strength and hand dexterity. Many tasks, such as disassembling engine parts, connecting or attaching components, and using hand tools, require a steady hand and good hand-eye coordination. Since automotive businesses depend on repeat clients, auto mechanics must be good listeners and ready to answer customers' questions. Other essential skills include reading, document use, numeracy and critical thinking.

### Training

Because, automotive technology is becoming increasingly sophisticated, many employers prefer service technicians who have completed a formal training programme at a recognised institution, especially for entry-level positions. New workers generally start as trainee mechanics or lubrication workers and gradually acquire and practice their skills by working with experienced mechanics and technicians.

### Working Conditions

Auto mechanics work in workshops on traditional mechanical components, such as engines, transmissions, belts, and hoses. However, they must also be familiar with a growing number of electronic systems. Braking, transmission and steering systems, for example, are controlled primarily by computers and electronic components. Other integrated electronic systems, such as accident-avoidance sensors, are becoming common as well. In addition, a growing number of technicians are required to work on vehicles that run on alternative fuels, such as ethanol and electricity. After computer diagnostics, automotive repair work is likely to require handling greasy parts and tools. Most shops are clean and well lit, but a repair task may put the technician in uncomfortable positions as parts are removed and replaced.

## Job Prospects

Most auto mechanics work fulltime for private companies, while others are self-employed. In related careers, automechanics may also work as diesel and heavy vehicle service technicians, while others may pursue careers in automotive body and glass repairs. Other options include repairing the smaller engines in motorcycles or boats.

You too can live your passion and become an automechanic. If you are a fit and strong and have strong mechanical skills, you are a good candidate.



We can manufacture a car in Namibia.  
It is my dream and I am going to make  
it happen.

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