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How To Become An Edmonton Heating And Cooling Contractor

If you are looking for a high growth potential career, consider becoming an Edmonton heating and cooling contractor. Experts predict that there will be upwards of a 40% increase in salaries for well trained technicians who easily earn more than \$60,000 a year.

Consider also that as older Edmonton heating and cooling contractors and technicians retire, there's a new blood shortage. People will always need heating and cooling services so the job security for an Edmonton heating and cooling contractor is fairly stable.

Heating and cooling professionals are also known as HVAC technicians who specialize in the installation, maintenance and repair of heating, refrigeration and cooling systems in homes and commercial buildings. Education is the first step to becoming an Edmonton heating and cooling contractor.

If you are still in school, make sure you get your high school diploma or at least pass a high school equivalency exam. This really is the first step as it will make you a much better applicant to trade schools or community college. Community colleges and vocational or trade schools offer courses in HVAC systems. These are general programs that cover things such as heating, cooling and refrigeration and lay the foundation for more specialized courses that take a much more comprehensive look at heating and cooling. These courses can take anywhere from a couple of semesters to two full academic years to complete. You will need to have good mathematics and science skills and knowledge to do well in these courses.

Though less common today, some people find heating and cooling careers without any formal education by apprenticing through an applied on-the-job program. You can look for unskilled, entry level helper positions with a licensed and certified heating and cooling company. Just be prepared to pound the pavement a fair bit and to receive low starting wages. This way you can learn as you work to eventually become an Edmonton heating and cooling contractor.

Some companies will sponsor a formal apprenticeship recognized by provincial and national HVAC accrediting bodies. More formal apprenticeship programs will combine the training an apprentice receives on-the-job with supplementary classroom lectures. On average it takes about three years to complete the apprenticeship program.

Once you have completed your training and are certified to become an Edmonton heating and cooling contractor, you will probably want to get some additional hands-on experience while you continue to build your skills. Working for bigger companies has the advantage of offer higher wages, some in the range of \$80,000 per year and more when you factor in bonuses and commissions for selling home heating maintenance plans or upgraded equipment. If you are a natural salesperson you can probably expect to earn in excess of \$100,000 a year.

Be sure to check out the companies you may be interested in working for. The Better Business Bureau is a good place to start as well as talking to people in your professional network who may have good information or a particular company.

Networking is very important if you want to start your own business someday as an [Edmonton heating](#) and cooling contractor. People in your network should include fellow workers, superiors and even customers. You never know who might be a future client of your new contracting business.

Of course it's important that you stay up-to-date on the latest heating and cooling equipment so periodic courses may be required on the maintenance and repair of the latest furnace or air conditioning units. You should also consider taking some basic business courses that will help you when you start your own heating and cooling or HVAC company.

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