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Elevator Installer and Repairer

Job Description

Assemble, install, repair, or maintain electric or hydraulic freight or passenger elevators, escalators, or dumbwaiters.

Work Conditions

Elevator installers and repairers often carry heavy equipment and parts. Repairers may be required to work overtime when essential equipment needs repair; some workers are on call 24 hours.

How to Become an Elevator Installer and Repairer

The fine tuning of an elevator is done by an adjustor.

Nearly all elevator installers and repairers learn through an apprenticeship. Currently, 35 states require workers to be licensed.

- **Education**

A high school diploma or equivalent is required. High school classes in math, mechanical drawing, and shop may help applicants compete for apprenticeship openings.

- **Training**

- Elevator installers and repairers learn their trade through a 5-year apprenticeship. For each year of the program, apprentices must have at least 144 hours of related technical instruction and 2,000 hours of paid on-the-job training. During training, apprentices learn blueprint reading, electrical and electronic theory, mathematics, applied physics, and safety.
- Unions and individual contractors offer apprenticeship programs. The basic qualifications to enter an apprenticeship program are the following:
 - At least 18 years old
 - High school diploma or equivalent
 - Physically able to do the job
 - Pass basic math, reading, and mechanical aptitude test

- **Licenses, Certifications, and Registrations**

- Currently, 35 states require elevator installers and repairers to be licensed. Check with your state's individual licensing agencies for specific requirements.
- Some associations offer certification for workers. Although not required, certification can show competence and proficiency in the field. The National Association of Elevator Contractors offers two certification programs for elevator installers and repairers:
 - Certified Elevator Technician
 - Certified Accessibility and Private Residence Lift Technician

- **Advancement**

Ongoing training is important for elevator installers and repairers in order to keep up with technological developments. Union elevator installers and repairers typically receive training throughout their careers. This training improves a worker's chances of keeping their job and getting promoted. Some installers may receive additional training in specialized areas and advance to be a mechanic-in-charge, adjustor, supervisor, or elevator inspector.



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- **Important Qualities**

- **Detail oriented**
Elevator installers must keep accurate records of their service schedules. These records are used to schedule future maintenance, which often helps reduce breakdowns.
- **Mechanical skills**
Elevator installers use a variety of power tools and handtools to install and repair lifts. Escalators, for example, run on tracks that must be installed using wrenches and screwdrivers.
- **Physical stamina**
Elevators installers must be able to perform strenuous work for long periods.
- **Physical strength**
Elevator installers often lift heavy equipment and parts, including escalator steps, conduit, and metal tracks. Some apprentices must be able to lift 100 pounds to participate in a program.
- **Troubleshooting skills**
Elevator installers and repairers must be able to diagnose and repair problems. When an escalator stops moving, for example, mechanics determine why it stopped and make the necessary repairs.

Wage Information

- The median annual wage for elevator installers and repairers was \$76,650 in May 2012. The median wage is the wage at which half the workers in an occupation earned more than that amount and half earned less. The lowest 10 percent earned less than \$39,540, and the top 10 percent earned more than \$106,450.
- The starting pay for apprentices is usually 50 percent of what fully trained elevator installers and repairers make. They earn pay increases as they learn to do more. Apprentices who are certified welders usually receive higher wages when welding. Assistant mechanics, by contract, receive 80 percent of the rate paid to journeyman elevator installers and repairers.
- Nearly all elevator installers and repairers work full time, which may include evenings and weekends. They often are required to be on call to handle emergencies. Overtime is common on construction sites because deadlines must be met.

For more information [click here](#).



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