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Education Today / Career Tomorrow

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Major Appliance Repair

Major appliance repairers, also known as in-home service professionals, install and repair home appliances. Some repairers work on small appliances such as microwave ovens and trash compactors. Others specialize in major appliances such as refrigerators, dishwashers, washers and dryers, and window air conditioning units. Home appliance repairers install household durable goods such as refrigerators, washing machines, and cooking products. They may have to install pipes to connect the appliances to a gas or water line.

Home appliance repairers also answer customers' questions about the care and use of appliances.

When problems with home appliances occur, home appliance repairers visually inspect the appliance to determine the cause of the failure. They follow service manuals and use testing devices to check electrical systems for shorts and faulty connections.

After identifying problems, home appliance repairers replace or repair

defective belts, motors, heating elements, switches, gears, or other items. They tighten, align, clean, and lubricate parts as necessary.

Repairers write up estimates of the cost of repairs for customers, keep records of parts used and hours worked, prepare bills, and collect payments.

Source:
The Occupational Outlook Handbook

Job Outlook Money Matters

Excellent job opportunities are expected in the future. The number of home appliances is expected to increase with growth in the numbers of households. With sales of high-end appliances growing, demand for major appliance repairers will be on the rise.

Also, openings will arise as home appliance repairers retire or transfer to other occupations. Individuals with formal training in appliance repair and electronics should have the best opportunities.

Career: Major Appliance Repair Technician

Job Description: Investigates, installs, maintains, and repairs home appliance products. Familiar with standard concepts, practices, and procedures within the field. Relies on experience and judgment to plan and accomplish goals. Performs a variety of tasks.

Salary: \$24,650-\$55,230

For more information on how to start your career in Major Appliance Repair, please contact:

Career Counselor Jeannell Copeland
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Education Needed

Most employees learn their jobs while working with more experienced workers, which can last from several months to a few years. In businesses that fix portable appliances in a repair shop, trainees work on a single type of appliance, such as a microwave oven, until they master its repair. Then they move on to others, until they can work on all appliances repaired by the shop.

While on-the-job training is the most common method of training, employers prefer to hire students of appliance repair or electronics programs offered in high school vocational programs, postsecondary technical schools or community colleges. These programs can last 1 to 2 years and include courses in basic electricity and electronics as most home appliances contain electronic components. These programs can help reduce the amount of on-the-job training required for entry-level workers.

Although no formal training is necessary, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has mandated that all repairers who buy or work with refrigerants pass a written examination to become certified in their proper handling. Also, Home appliance repairers may complete one of several certification examinations offered. A driver's license is necessary in order to drive to customer's homes.



"The job outlook is incredibly positive right now. This area is perfect for employment opportunities for major appliance technicians. At MTI, we are preparing students to enter the workforce. In the program, we rely on our advisory board, a group of industry leaders. This board is extremely helpful in placing students in cutting edge jobs and the committee members are looking forward to helping our students in the future!"
- Paddy McCarthy

"I enrolled at Manatee Technical Institute because I wanted to begin a career for myself. I felt the Major Appliance program was the best way to begin my pursuit of this career. After graduating from the program, I plan on working right away. I would like to work for a company like Sears."
- Eduardo Rico

Teacher

Student

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