



| NSW Department of Education

Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Mechanic

Air conditioning and refrigeration mechanics assemble, install, maintain and repair industrial, commercial and domestic air conditioning and refrigeration systems and equipment. This may apply to food storage and preservation, air conditioning and air distribution equipment.

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Job title examples

- Air conditioning and Refrigeration Mechanic
- Air conditioning Service Technician

What air conditioning and refrigeration mechanics do

- establish job requirements from drawings and specifications, and lay out installation reference points
- drill holes, install mounting brackets and cut, bend and thread piping
- install and repair components such as compressors, motors, condensers, evaporators, switches and gauges, and copper lines for steam, gas, refrigerant, compressed air, oil and chilled water
- bolt, solder, rivet, weld and braze pipes to connect equipment, and check alignment and accuracy of fit
- fill systems with gas or fluid to check for leaks
- test-operate refrigeration systems, check mechanisms and make adjustments
- remove test gas and fluid using vacuum pumps, and fill with refrigerant
- check and overhaul refrigeration systems, diagnose faults and repair and replace defective components
- adjust system controls and mechanisms and reassemble systems
- record causes of malfunctioning and action taken

Main employing industries

- Construction

Qualifications

The following government subsidised qualifications are available in NSW:

Certificate III in Air-conditioning and Refrigeration available as a traineeship or qualification

Diploma of Air-conditioning and Refrigeration Engineering available as a qualification

Apprenticeships and traineeships: Find out how to get an [apprenticeship or traineeship](#).

Course fees: You may be eligible for government subsidised training under Smart and Skilled. Go to the [Course Finder](#) to find training in your area, estimate your fee and find a training provider.

Job prospects and pay

- There are around 9,715 air conditioning and refrigeration mechanics working in NSW.
- Over the next four years, employment in this occupation is expected to decline in NSW.
- Employers report current state-wide shortages of air conditioning and refrigeration mechanics in NSW, in particular for those experienced in refrigeration servicing or the repair and maintenance of refrigeration and air conditioning equipment.

Average weekly full-time earnings (before tax):

- Air conditioning and Refrigeration Mechanics: \$1,618
- All occupations: \$1,200

Related jobs

- Electronic Trades Worker
- Electrical Distribution Trades Worker
- Electrician



To find out more regarding these related jobs, visit education.nsw.gov.au/job-guides.

Information sources

Occupations: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations, 1220.0

Employment: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Labour Force, Australia, Detailed, Quarterly, 6291.0.55.003

Skills shortages: Department of Employment, Skill Shortage List NSW 2015-16

Job prospects: Centre of Policy Studies (CoPS), Victoria University, Employment Forecast Data for NSW 2015/16 to 2022/23

Earnings: Department of Employment, joboutlook.gov.au, based on ABS Characteristics of Employment Survey, August 2014