



**South Dakota  
High Demand  
&  
High Wage  
Career**



**Career Cluster:  
Architecture & Construction**

# Heating, Air Conditioning, and Refrigeration Mechanics & Installers

*Standard Occupational Code 49-9021*

## What They Do

Install or repair heating, central air conditioning or refrigeration systems that control the temperature and air quality in buildings. They are sometimes called HVAC technicians or HVAC mechanics.

## Is This For You?

**Work Interests** are described in the following categories (compatible with Holland's Model). People who tend to succeed in this career are:

**Realistic (Doers)** - prefer to work with objects, things, machines, tools, plants or animals. They have mechanical ability, enjoy being outdoors and working with their hands

**Conventional (Organizers)** - detail oriented and organized. They like to analyze data, keep financial records and do research. They can be counted on to be accurate and enjoy structure and closure.

**Work Values** are aspects of work that are satisfying to you. The following work values are generally associated with this career.

**Support** — Offer supportive management that stands behind employees.

**Independence** — Allow employees to work on their own and make decisions.

**Relationships** — Allow employees to provide service to others and work with co-workers in a friendly, non-competitive environment.

**Abilities** reflect a person's aptitude to acquire skills and knowledge. The following abilities are important for success in the career:

- Near Vision
- Problem Sensitivity
- Deductive Reasoning
- Arm-Hand Steadiness
- Finger Dexterity
- Oral Comprehension

## Basic Skills You Need

- Operations Monitoring
- Critical Thinking
- Troubleshooting
- Installation
- Reading Comprehension
- Repairing

## Education & Training

Some post secondary education in a heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) or closely related program is recommended for heating, air conditioning and refrigeration mechanic and installer positions.

A registered apprenticeship is another option for preparing for this occupation. To learn more, visit [StartTodaySD.com](http://StartTodaySD.com) or contact your local Job Service office to get started.

## Recommended Levels\* for the National Career Readiness Certificate

Applied Math	4
Workplace Documents	4
Graphic Literacy	4

\*Using the median skill level.

## Where They Work

The South Dakota industries which employ the largest number of heating, air conditioning, and refrigeration mechanics and installers are:

- Building Equipment Contractors
- Self Employment

## Employment & Wages

2022 Employment	2032 Employment	Numeric Change	Percent Change	Average Annual Openings	Annual Median Wage	Annual Average Wage
1,168	1,360	192	16.4%	124	\$54,500	\$57,650

## Additional References

### Labor Market Information Center

[www.dlr.sd.gov/lmic](http://www.dlr.sd.gov/lmic)

### Career OneStop

[www.careeronestop.org](http://www.careeronestop.org)

### O\*Net Online

[www.onetonline.org](http://www.onetonline.org)

### mySkills myFuture

<https://www.myskillsmyfuture.org/>

## Provided By

Labor Market Information Center  
South Dakota Dept. of Labor and Regulation  
605.626.2314

Visit [dlr.sd.gov/hotcareers](http://dlr.sd.gov/hotcareers) to obtain the most recent workforce data and trends and more resources, including this document. Also available are explanations of the terms used in this occupational profile.

Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. U.S. DOL funded. For details, see [dlr.sd.gov/lmic/eta\\_grant.aspx](http://dlr.sd.gov/lmic/eta_grant.aspx).

Printed on recycled paper. 



July  
2024