



South Dakota
High Demand
&
High Wage
Career

Career Cluster:
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 Styles (personality tendencies) of people who perform well in this occupation have:

Cautiousness — A tendency to be careful, deliberate, and risk-avoidant when making work-related decisions or doing work.

Attention to Detail — A tendency to be detail-oriented, organized, and thorough in completing work.

Dependability — A tendency to be reliable, responsible, and consistent in meeting work-related obligations.

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

Work Activities

- Getting Information
- Performing General Physical Activities
- Inspecting Equipment, Structures, or Materials
- Making Decisions and Solving Problems
- Handling and Moving Objects

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 [w](#) 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:

- Specialty Trade Contractors
- Self Employment
- Repair and Maintenance
- Food Manufacturing
- Hospitals

Employment & Wages

2024 Employment	2034 Employment	Numeric Change	Percent Change	Average Annual Openings	Annual Median Wage	Annual Average Wage
1,207	1,373	166	13.8%	124	\$61,390	\$61,100

Additional References

Labor Market Information Center

www.dlr.sd.gov/lmic

Career OneStop

www.careeronestop.org

O*Net Online

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

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August
2026