

# Occupations and Workplaces

## Mechanic

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## What do mechanics do?

Mechanics work in many different industries, including aviation, automotive, commercial, industrial and residential settings. Some of their main duties are to:

- Install, repair and maintain mechanical systems.
- Prepare cost estimates and documentation for clients.
- Use, clean and maintain various equipment and machines.
- Supervise apprentices or other workers.

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## What are some health and safety issues for mechanics?

Mechanics work in a variety of settings and may be exposed to several hazards, including:

- Exposure to chemicals, solvents, solder, and other products.
- Exposure to gasoline or [diesel](#) exhaust.
- Risk of [electrical](#) shock or burns.
- Fire risk from [fuels](#) and other products.
- Burns from battery acid, hot surfaces, exhaust, etc.
- Potentially working in [confined spaces](#).
- [Welding](#) hazards, including [UV radiation](#).
- Working with [compressed air](#).

- Working near rotating parts (being caught in or between).
  - Working with explosive items, such as airbags.
  - Bursting of tires while repairing or installing.
  - [Extreme temperatures](#).
  - Risk of pain or injury from [awkward positions](#), [repetitive manual tasks](#), or [lifting](#) heavy objects.
  - Risk of falling objects (including the vehicle) when [working under vehicles](#), or with jacks, hoists, or [hydraulic lifts](#).
  - Possibility of [working at heights](#).
  - Risk of [eye injury](#) from flying particles.
  - Risk of hand injuries.
  - [Slips, trips and falls](#).
  - Working with various [hand tools](#), [power tools](#) and equipment.
  - [Stress](#).
  - [Shift work](#) or [extended work days](#).
  - [Working alone](#).
  - Possible exposure to [asbestos](#).
  - Exposure to [noise](#).
  - [Dealing with hostile customers](#).
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## What are some preventive measures for mechanics?

- Keep tools and equipment in good working order.
- Work safely with chemicals and related products.
- Use appropriate [personal protective equipment](#) for the task, including [footwear](#).
- Keep work areas clear of clutter and equipment.
- Avoid [awkward positions](#), and [repetitive tasks](#), or take frequent breaks.
- Learn safe lifting techniques.
- Follow a recommended shift work pattern and know the associated hazards.
- Inspect the work area before work starts to identify potential hazards and their controls.

- Follow workplace policies and procedures relating to preventing workplace violence and harassment

Please also see the series of OSH Answers fact sheets on how to work safely in a [garage](#), which includes autobody repair, batteries, fuel safety, hydraulic lifts, inflating tires, servicing vehicles and other topics.

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## What are some good general safe work practices?

- Follow correct procedures for:
  - [Working in a Garage](#)
  - [Electrical](#) safety
  - [Lock-out/tag-out](#)
  - [Confined spaces](#) entry
  - [Working at heights](#)
  - Working with [ladders](#)
  - [Lifting](#)
  - Working with [hand tools](#) and [power tools](#)
  - [Fire safety](#).
  - [Welding](#) and Hot Work
- Use, maintain and store [personal protective equipment](#) according to manufacturer's recommendations.
- Learn about [chemical hazards](#), [WHMIS](#) and [SDSs](#).
- Know [general first aid](#) and [first aid for chemical exposures](#).
- Install and maintain [eyewash stations](#) where appropriate.
- Know how to [report a hazard](#).
- Follow [good housekeeping](#) procedures.
- Follow company safety rules.

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