

HEATING/AIR CONDITIONING MECHANIC

{ JOB DESCRIPTION }

Install and repair heating, air conditioning, and refrigeration systems.

{ SKILLS AND APTITUDES NEEDED }

- Basic knowledge of plumbing, electrical work, mechanical drawing, applied physics, chemistry, blueprint reading, computer applications
- Basic understanding of microelectronics
- Interpersonal skills for dealing with customers
- Good physical condition

Heating and air conditioning mechanics install, maintain, and repair systems which control temperature, humidity, and the total air quality in residential, commercial, and industrial facilities. Heating and A/C systems consist of many mechanical, electrical, and electronic components such as motors, compressors, pumps, fans, ducts, pipes, thermostats, and switches.

When mechanics service equipment, they must use care to conserve, recover, and recycle chlorofluorocarbon (CFC) and hydrochlorofluorocarbon (HCFC) refrigerants used in A/C and refrigeration systems. They recover it by venting it into proper cylinders and recycle it for reuse with special filter-dryers.

Mechanics may work outside in cold or hot weather or in buildings which are uncomfortable because the A/C or heating equipment is malfunctioning. They often work in awkward or cramped positions and must sometimes work in high places. They risk injuries from electrical shock and burns. Appropriate safety equipment is necessary when handling refrigerants because contact can cause skin damage or blindness, and inhalation can cause asphyxiation.

{ SOUTH PLAINS }

Avg. Wage
\$12.52

Avg. Annual
Job Openings
14

Employment in
1998 2008
421 485

{ TEXAS }

Avg. Wage
\$13.46

Avg. Annual
Job Openings
1,084

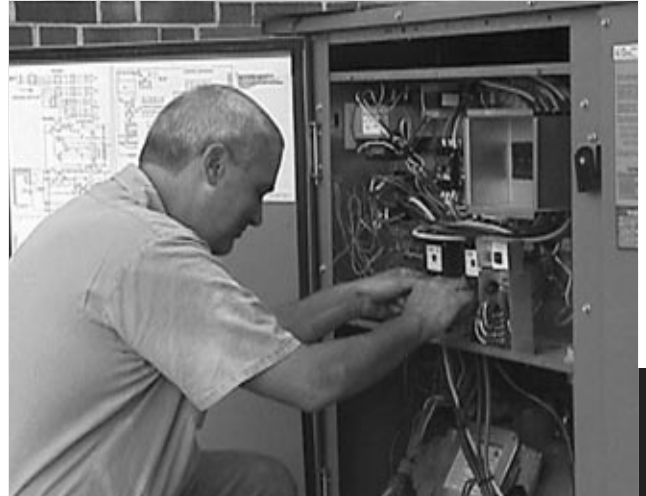
Employment in
1998 2008
22,482 29,173

{ U.S. EMPLOYMENT }

In 1998
285,922

Female **1%**
Minority **28%**

ENGINEERING & INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY CAREERS



{ PREFERRED EDUCATION }

- Technical training program in heating, air-conditioning, and refrigeration with coursework in theory, design, equipment construction and electronics, or
- Apprenticeship program

{ LICENSE / CERTIFICATION }

- Certification in the Air Conditioning Excellence program by North American Technician Excellence, Inc. (NATE), optional
- Technicians who purchase or work with refrigerants must be certified in its proper handling

{ REGIONAL EDUCATION PROVIDERS }

- **SOUTH PLAINS COLLEGE**-Associate of Applied Science (A.A.S.), Heating & Air Conditioning Technical Certificate; Commercial Refrigeration Technician Certificate
- **TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY**-Bachelor of Science (B.S.), Mechanical Engineering; Bachelor of Science (B.S.), Engineering Technology

{ REGIONAL TRAINING PROVIDERS }

• THE TRAINING CENTER

Ms. Pam Chambless
514 E. 34th St.
Lubbock, TX 79404
Ph: 762-5338
Fax: 762-6753
trainingcenter2001@yahoo.com

{ JOB SITES }

Plumbing/Heating/Air Conditioning	51%
Self Employed	13%
Hardware/Plumbing Equipment	5%

{ FOR MORE INFORMATION }

AIR CONDITIONING CONTRACTORS OF AMERICA, INC.
2800 Shirlington Rd., Suite 300, Arlington, VA 22206, (703)
575-4477
www.acca.org

APHCC TEXAS PANHANDLE CHAPTER
4112 NW 10th, Amarillo, TX 79106
(806) 376-9797

NORTH AMERICAN TECHNICIAN EXCELLENCE (NATE)
8201 Greensboro Drive, Suite 300, McLean, VA 22102,
toll free (877) 420-6283
www.natex.org

PLUMBING-HEATING-COOLING CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION
P.O. Box 6808, Falls Church, VA 22040
(800) 533-7694 www.naphcc.org