

Heating, Ventilation and Air-Conditioning Technicians build, test, install, maintain and repair heating, air-conditioning and refrigeration systems and equipment. They provide heating and air-conditioning in such structures as shops, hospitals, theaters, factories, restaurants, office buildings and private homes. They may work to provide temperature-sensitive products such as computers, food, medicines and precision instruments with refrigerated climates and may also provide heating and cooling systems in modes of transportation (trucks, planes and trains).

Heating, Air-Conditioning, and Refrigeration Mechanics and Installers are adept at using a variety of tools, including hammers, wrenches, metal snips, electric drills, pipe cutters and benders, measurement gauges, and acetylene torches, to work with refrigerant lines and air ducts. They use voltmeters, thermometers, pressure gauges, manometers, and other testing devices to check airflow, refrigerant pressure, electrical circuits, burners, and other components. Technicians may be employed for a variety of companies and businesses including heating and cooling contractors, manufacturers, dealers and distributors, utilities or engineering consultants. They often specialize in either installation or maintenance and repair, or in one type of equipment (oil burners, solar panels, commercial refrigerators).

Furnace Installers, also called **Heating Equipment Technicians**, follow blueprints or other specifications to install oil, gas, electric, solid-fuel, and multiple-fuel heating systems. **Air-Conditioning Mechanics** install and service central air-conditioning systems. After putting the equipment in place, they install fuel and water supply lines, air ducts and vents, pumps, and other components. **Refrigeration Mechanics** install, service, and repair industrial and commercial refrigerating systems and a variety of refrigeration equipment (motors, compressors, condensing units, evaporators, piping, and other components).

Salary Information:

- Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning Technology, Associate in Applied Science
\$22,140 Median Salary (Follow-up Study, Monroe Community College Graduates, 2007)
- **Heating, Air-Conditioning & Refrigeration Mechanic/Installer for Rochester, NY area:**
\$37,400 Median Salary (Career One Stop, 2008)
HVAC:
\$39,680 Median Hourly Range (U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2008)
[*Salary varies based on education/advanced degree, work-experience & setting/location]

Additional Information:

- Career One Stop: www.acinet.org/acinet
- Air Conditioning Contractors of America: www.acca.org
- American Society of Heating, Refrig & AC Engineers:
www.ashrae.org
- HVAC Careers: www.hvaccareers.com

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