

Occupations and Workplaces

Mechanic

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What do mechanics do?

Mechanics work in many different industries including aviation, automotive, commercial, industrial or 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.

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 air bags.
 - 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 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.

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 how to [report a hazard](#).
- Follow [good housekeeping](#) procedures.
- Follow company safety rules.

Fact sheet first published: 2017-09-14

Fact sheet last revised: 2017-09-14

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