

Small Engine Mechanics

SOC: 49-3050 • Career Profile Report

■ Key Facts

\$48,240 Median Salary	78,000 Employment	+4.0% Growth Rate
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■ Requirements & Salary Range

Education: See Requirements (BLS)

■ Automation Risk Assessment

Low Risk - 25.0% probability of being automated in the next 10-20 years.
This job is relatively safe from automation due to its creative, social, or complex problem-solving requirements.

■ Work-Life Balance

6.4/10 - Good work-life balance

■ Personality Fit (RIASEC)

Higher scores indicate better personality fit for this career type.

Realistic	8.8/10	Investigative	7.4/10
Artistic	4.4/10	Social	5.6/10
Enterprising	4.6/10	Conventional	6.4/10

■ Top Skills Required

Customer-service skills, Detail oriented, Dexterity, Mechanical skills, Organizational skills, Troubleshooting skills

✓ Strengths

- High Demand
- Flexible Work
- Continuous Learning

■ Challenges

- Burnout Risk
- Rapid Technological Change

■ What They Do

Small Engine Mechanics repair, maintain, and troubleshoot **small engines used in lawn equipment, motorcycles, boats, and other machinery**. They diagnose mechanical issues, replace parts, and ensure engines operate efficiently and safely. Their work is critical in maintenance, repair services, and recreational or commercial equipment operation.

This career is well suited for individuals who enjoy mechanical work, problem-solving, and hands-on technical tasks.

What Do Small Engine Mechanics Do?

These professionals inspect, diagnose, repair, and maintain small engines to ensure proper functioning and performance.

Common responsibilities include:

- Inspecting engines to identify mechanical problems
- Disassembling, repairing, and reassembling engines and components
- Performing routine maintenance such as oil changes, cleaning, and adjustments
- Replacing faulty or worn parts
- Testing engines for performance and safety compliance
- Advising customers on maintenance and proper operation
- Keeping records of repairs, maintenance, and parts used

Key Areas of Small Engine Mechanics

Mechanics may focus on specific types of engines or equipment:

- Lawn and Garden Equipment: Repairing mowers, trimmers, and small outdoor machinery
- Recreational Vehicles: Servicing motorcycles, ATVs, and boats
- Commercial Equipment: Maintaining generators, compressors, and small industrial engines
- Diagnostics and Troubleshooting: Identifying and resolving mechanical or electrical issues
- Customer Service and Maintenance Advice: Guiding clients on proper engine care and safety

Skills and Abilities Needed

Small engine mechanics combine technical, mechanical, and problem-solving skills.

Core Professional Skills

Personal Qualities That Matter

Education and Career Pathway

This role typically requires technical training and practical experience:

- High School Diploma or GED (minimum): Basic math, reading, and mechanical skills
- Vocational or Technical Training: Courses in small engine repair, mechanics, or electronics
- On-the-Job Training: Gaining experience through apprenticeship or work under experienced mechanics
- Certifications (optional): Manufacturer or technical certifications in engine repair
- Continuous Learning: Staying current with new engine models, technology, and repair techniques

Where Do Small Engine Mechanics Work?

They are employed in organizations that maintain and repair small engines and equipment:

- Repair Shops and Service Centers
- Lawn and Garden Equipment Dealers
- Marinas, Recreational Vehicle Dealers, and Motorcycle Shops
- Manufacturers and Rental Services

- Independent or Mobile Repair Services

Work environments include repair shops, customer sites, outdoor areas, and workshops.

Is This Career Difficult?

This career requires mechanical knowledge, problem-solving skills, and physical dexterity. Mechanics must troubleshoot complex engine issues, work with small components, and maintain safety standards.

Who Should Consider This Career?

This career may be a strong fit if you:

- Enjoy hands-on mechanical work
- Are detail-oriented and precise
- Can troubleshoot and solve technical problems
- Have good hand-eye coordination and dexterity
- Want a career repairing and maintaining small engines and equipment

How to Prepare Early

- Take courses in mechanics, small engines, or technical education programs
- Gain experience through part-time work, internships, or apprenticeships
- Develop skills in tool usage, diagnostics, and repair techniques
- Learn about fuel systems, electrical components, and engine maintenance
- Explore certifications or training programs from manufacturers or technical schools

Small engine mechanics repair, maintain, and troubleshoot engines for various equipment, ensuring safe and efficient operation in recreational, commercial, and residential applications.

*Generated by StartRight • Data from U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics & O*NET*

Source: <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/installation-maintenance-and-repair/small-engine-mechanics.htm>