

The job of the Vehicle Body Technician has certainly changed in the last decade with the introduction of computer technology making it very diverse, challenging and exciting. The automotive industry has become more sophisticated and high-tech, and so too have the skills of the Automotive Technician.

# Vehicle Body Technician



VACC



  
Australian Government  
Department of Education,  
Science and Training  
National Skills Shortages Strategy

## What sort of things do Vehicle Body Technicians do?

- Inspect and determine the repair work needed
- Remove and replace damaged metal and plastic panels and components
- Straighten and realign chassis and body frames
- Replace panels and structural components using welding techniques
- Remove and replace motors, suspension and other mechanical components
- Remove and replace computers, airbag systems and other electronic parts
- Read and interpret manufacturers specification charts and other technical information
- Prepare vehicle surfaces by filing, chiselling or sanding
- Mix and colour match to mimic original factory finish
- Apply primer and finish coats using spray guns, and rub down surfaces between coats
- Touch-up paintwork and apply polish to vehicles
- Paint signs or artwork on vehicles
- Treat vehicles with rust-proofing chemicals

## Where do Vehicle Body Technicians work?

- Smash repair workshops
- Workshops that specialise in the restoration of old vehicles
- Car dealerships
- Large transport firms
- Workshops that build and repair race cars
- Loss assessors for insurance companies
- Motor vehicle manufacturers
- For themselves

## What kind of Vehicle Body Technician can I be?

**Vehicle Painter**– Vehicle Painters carry out masking procedures, colour matching and mixing of paints, application of primer and finishing coats and polishing and waxing the finished paint work.

**Panel Beater**– Panel beaters repair damage to metal, plastic and fibre glass bodywork on vehicles and make and form vehicle panels using machines or hand tools.

**Vehicle body builders**– repair vehicle bodies (that may include buses, caravans, tray and van bodies, semi-trailers, refrigerated vans, horse floats, fire and police vehicles), manufacture and modify purpose-built bodies to fit other manufacturers' specifications like building limousines and wheelchair accessible taxis.

**Dismantler**– salvage and disassembly of vehicle components and replacement parts for further usage.

**Glazer**– undertake laminating windscreen repairs, removing damaged windscreens and other glass, removing mouldings and trims from around damaged autoglass, repair and replacement of autoglass frames and so on.

**Accessory Fitter**– Employees install, test and repair wiring/ lighting systems on trailers, caravans or vehicles and remove, replace, fit and test components or accessories. Work involves fabricating components, welding, soldering, thermal cutting and heating activities.

## You would enjoy being a Vehicle Body Technician if you

- Have a keen eye to detail
- Have a creative fair
- Take pride in your own work
- You enjoy being prepared and have an ability to prioritize
- Have good communication skills
- Have an ability to think on your feet
- Enjoy problem solving,
- Have a high level of math's and English skills.
- Like working with and have an interest in computers.

## Trade Facts

### What sort of training do you need?

To become a Vehicle Body Technician usually requires the completion of an Australian Apprenticeship in Automotive Vehicle Body.

The length of the training can vary and may involve on-the-job and off-the-job components. The off-the-job training is provided through Registered Training Organisations to the Certificate III level. You may be able to start training for this occupation while still at school.

### How do I get a job as a Vehicle Body Technician?

- Join a Group Training Company
- Respond to advertisements in the paper or internet
- Refer to the 'Automotive Careers on the Move' flyer for more information and contact details in your state.

