

What Does a Refrigeration Technician Do?

Refrigeration technicians work with refrigeration and heat pump systems. You'll learn how to advise customers, as well as install, maintain, and repair systems of all sizes – from small refrigeration units to large industrial systems and air conditioning units. A significant part of the job involves finding and installing environmentally friendly solutions that reduce energy consumption. That's why refrigeration technicians play a key role in the green transition.

A Refrigeration Technician's Daily Work

As a refrigeration technician, you'll typically drive to different customers to set up and service refrigeration and heat pump systems. A big part of the job is also advising customers so they get a system that fits their needs and budget.

It's a career that allows you to work in many different industries – for example, refrigeration in grocery stores, public institutions, the pharmaceutical industry, private households, the maritime sector, the military, and much more.

Video Insight

In this video, Rune Sølgaard Madsen talks about his daily life as a refrigeration technician. In 2018, he was honored for his work – including recognition from HRH Prince Joachim at Aarhus City Hall. Click the image to watch the video.

The Refrigeration Technician Education Program

The program is divided into two stages: **Refrigeration Assistant** and **Refrigeration Technician**.

- The refrigeration assistant program lasts **2.5 years**,
- The refrigeration technician program lasts **4.5 years**.

If you only complete the refrigeration assistant program, you do **not** receive the refrigeration technician certificate and cannot carry out independent refrigeration work. However, you can continue your education and become a certified refrigeration technician later.

Both stages of the program consist of a **basic course** followed by a **main course**, with alternating periods of **apprenticeship and school-based learning**.

[You can find more details about the course structure here.](#)

What Do You Learn in the Refrigeration Assistant Program?

As a refrigeration assistant student, you'll learn to install small refrigeration systems, inspect them, and create documentation in compliance with safety and occupational health regulations. You'll also learn to connect pipes, perform technical refrigeration calculations, and conduct system inspections.

While the assistant program does not qualify you to work independently, it provides access to the full refrigeration technician program.

What Do You Learn in the Refrigeration Technician Program?

The refrigeration technician program provides in-depth knowledge about refrigeration, air conditioning, and heat pump systems. You'll learn how to install commercial refrigeration systems and perform calculations and inspections.

Upon completing the program, you'll receive a **refrigeration technician certificate**, which legally qualifies you to perform independent refrigeration work.

Admission Requirements

To begin the basic course, you must have completed the Danish primary school leaving exam (or an equivalent) with a **minimum grade of 02 in math and Danish**.

To continue in the main course, you must have passed: Math and physics at E-level, and completed the following certifications:

- Working with refrigerant filling,
- First aid for vocational education,
- Basic fire safety,
- Workplace safety for welding and thermal cutting.

You must also have an apprenticeship contract or a school internship agreement before starting the main course.

Salary and Career Opportunities

The **typical monthly salary** for a newly trained refrigeration technician is **DKK 38,000 before tax** (source: Ministry of Children and Education). This is higher than many other vocational educations. A newly trained electrician earns around DKK 30,000. A plumber earns about DKK 32,000 before tax.

These figures are averages from Statistics Denmark, covering salaries from January 2018 to December 2020, and include data from graduates between February 2017 and January 2019 (minimum 12 months of wage data per person).

Most refrigeration technicians are employed by companies that build, install, sell, and service refrigeration, air conditioning, and heat pump systems. Some choose to become **self-employed** and start their own business.

For more information about the education and the job as a refrigeration technician, visit:

- [Uddannelsesguiden](#) (Education Guide),
- [TEC](#) (Technical Education Copenhagen),
- [Den Jyske Håndværkerskole's website](#).

It's a good idea to contact refrigeration companies even before starting the basic course. This gives you a chance to try out an internship and experience the work before committing to the program. Some companies may offer a conditional apprenticeship agreement before the program begins.

You can become an apprentice during either the basic or main course:

- In the basic course, you receive a **student salary** (or **SU** if you don't have an apprenticeship),
- In the main course, you must have an apprenticeship contract and will receive a **trainee salary**.

Use the "[Find Your Refrigeration Company](#)" tool to locate approved companies that accept apprentices. You can also visit [lærepladsen.dk](#) to see which companies currently have apprentices.

Choosing a company that is a member of Dansk Køl & Varme ensures that your apprenticeship is with a firm committed to quality, green transition, and legal compliance.

How to Get Started with the Refrigeration Technician Program