

Rafael Watts

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SUMMARY

Tool technician with six years supporting **plastic injection molds**, metalworking operations, and production tooling in **fast paced manufacturing** environments. Maintains, repairs, inspects, cleans, lubricates, and sets up molds so scheduled production can proceed with dependable tooling availability. Changes family mold components, evaluates part and mold complexity, machines worn components, and verifies dimensions with precision gages. Experienced with Bridgeport equipment, **horizontal mills**, lathes, grinders, **cut off saws**, hand tools, power tools, overhead cranes, and lift trucks. Works independently with limited supervision while documenting tooling condition and communicating repair priorities clearly with production teams. Brings practical mechanical judgment, organized tool room habits, and safety focused material handling to support consistent manufacturing execution.

EXPERIENCE

Tool Technician II

January 2024 - Present

Great Lakes Mold Services

Grand Rapids, MI

Supports plastic injection mold maintenance across multiple production families. Owns repair preparation, component changes, machining, inspection, lubrication, material handling, and production communication while working with limited supervision.

- Restored worn injection mold components, keeping **production tooling** ready for scheduled manufacturing runs.
- Changed family mold inserts, confirming fit, alignment, movement, and setup readiness before production release.
- Machined tooling **components** with **Bridgeport** equipment, lathes, grinders, and gages for dimensional accuracy.
- Inspected, cleaned, and lubricated mold components, documenting wear requiring planned repair before production impact.
- Moved molds and dies with **overhead cranes** and lift trucks, following licensing and **safety practices**.
- Reported **repair** status, tooling risks, and completion priorities clearly during fast paced shift operations.

Tool Room Technician

August 2021 - December 2023

West Michigan Tooling Solutions

Holland, MI

Handled injection molding tool repairs in a **plastics manufacturing** shop. Diagnosed mechanical wear, selected repair sequences, restored components, managed safe mold movement, and communicated return to service decisions.

- Diagnosed worn injection molding tools, correcting mechanical issues that affected part production and setup.
- Restored tooling surfaces with horizontal mills, **lathes**, **grinders**, Bridgeport equipment, and precision gages.
- Completed mold disassembly, cleaning, inspection, **lubrication**, and reassembly using documented shop procedures.
- Evaluated part and mold complexity, selecting repair sequences that limited unnecessary disassembly.
- Moved molds with cranes and **lift trucks** after checking lifting points, paths, and secure placement.
- Managed assigned repairs independently, alerting production contacts when machining or replacement **components** were needed.

Tool Room Assistant

October 2020 - July 2021

MidState Precision Manufacturing

Lansing, MI

Supported mold and die maintenance in mixed metal and plastics manufacturing. Built practical shop capability through supervised inspection, measurement, equipment operation, material handling, and safety work.

- Supported mold and die maintenance, building practical knowledge of **tool room** workflow and safety.
- Cleaned, lubricated, and inspected tooling under technician direction, identifying visible wear and damage.
- Operated grinders, cut off saws, **hand tools**, and **power tools** for approved maintenance tasks.
- Checked repaired **components** with **gages** and recorded dimensions for technician review before mold reassembly.
- Prepared work areas for crane and lift truck moves by clearing paths and organizing tooling.
- Maintained orderly work areas through tool storage, cleanup, and consistent manufacturing **safety practices**.

PROJECTS

Family Mold Changeover Support 📅 2024

A product transition depended on quick, accurate component changes. Reconfigured family mold inserts, checked movement and alignment, then documented setup readiness for production review.

Tooling Condition Documentation 📅 2023

Recurring wear was easier to address after repair notes became clearer. Recorded inspection findings, lubrication needs, and replacement concerns for better return to service decisions.

LEADERSHIP & AWARDS

- Selected for dependable tooling support during scheduled production changeovers, based on consistent repair readiness and clear communication.
- Recognized for organized tool room practices, safe material handling, and careful use of cranes and lift trucks.
- Provided informal guidance to newer shop personnel on inspection, cleanup, lubrication, and safe work preparation.

EDUCATION

Associate of Applied Science in Manufacturing Technology

2020

Lansing Community College GPA: 3.5

Lansing, MI

Coursework: Plastic injection molding, mold design, machining processes, mechanical systems

CERTIFICATIONS

- Overhead Crane Safety and Rigging Certificate 📅 2022
- Powered Industrial Truck Operator Certification 📅 2023

TECHNICAL SKILLS

- **Mold Maintenance:** Plastic injection molds, family molds, mold cleaning
- **Machining Equipment:** Bridgeport equipment, horizontal mills, lathes
- **Finishing Equipment:** Grinders, cut off saws, hand tools
- **Measurement Tools:** Precision gages, dimensional checks, technical drawings
- **Material Handling:** Overhead cranes, lift trucks, rigging
- **Tooling Care:** Lubrication, preventive care, component inspection
- **Mold Construction:** Mold components, part complexity, mechanical systems
- **Repair Operations:** Mold repair, component replacement, setup verification
- **Manufacturing Environments:** Plastics manufacturing, metalworking, tool rooms
- **Safety Practices:** Safety training, licensing, hazard control

SKILLS

- | | | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------|----------------|------------------------------|
| • Plastic Injection Molds | • Tool Room Operations | • Grinders | • Power Tools |
| • Family Molds | • Bridgeport Equipment | • Cut Off Saws | • Mechanical Troubleshooting |
| • Mold Repair | • Horizontal Mills | • Gages | • Shop Safety |
| • Mold Setup | • Lathes | • Hand Tools | |

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- Manufacturing technology community, Lansing Community College graduate.
- Tool room and plastics manufacturing operations, West Michigan professional network.

LANGUAGES

- English (Native)
- Spanish (Intermediate)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Work Status : Authorized to work in United States. No sponsorship required.

REFERENCES

AVAILABLE ON REQUEST