

machinery noun

ma·chin·ery (mə-ˈshē-nə-rē) -ˈshēn-rē

plural **machineries**

Synonyms of *machinery* >

- 1 a** : machines in general or as a functioning unit
- b** : the working parts of a machine
- 2** : the means or system by which something is kept in action or a desired result is obtained
the *machinery* of government



- agency
- instrument
- means
- ministry
- vehicle
- agent
- instrumentality
- medium
- organ

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- Some of the mill's *machinery* was damaged in the fire.
- a piece of farm *machinery*
- Something was clogging the *machinery*.
- The United Nations has set up *machinery* for mediation.

Recent Examples on the Web

Yes, baskets and textiles are both woven — one mostly by hand and the other often with the aid of *machinery*.
 – Christopher Knight, *Los Angeles Times*, 22 Dec. 2023



Surrounded by sheer silk-organza drapes onto which are sewn hundreds of silken insects, the installation contains a series of hourglasses, which are periodically refilled, not by *machinery* but by people.

– Robb Report Studio, *Robb Report*, 13 Dec. 2023

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These examples are programmatically compiled from various online sources to illustrate current usage of the word 'machinery.' Any opinions expressed in the examples do not represent those of Merriam-Webster or its editors. Send us feedback about these examples.

First Known Use

1731, in the meaning defined at sense 1a

Time Traveler

The first known use of *machinery* was in 1731

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- machine room
- machinery**
- machine screw

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Style

"Machinery." *Merriam-Webster.com Dictionary*, Merriam-Webster, <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/machinery>. Accessed 3 Jan. 2024.

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ma·chin·ery (mə-'shēn-(ə-)rē ◀▶)

plural machineries

- 1** : machines in general
- 2** : the working parts of a machine or instrument
- 3** : the organization or system by which something is done or carried on
machinery of government

English: Translation of *machinery* for Spanish Speakers

Britannica English: Translation of *machinery* for Arabic Speakers

Britannica.com: Encyclopedia article about *machinery*

Last Updated: 26 Dec 2023 - Updated example sentences

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