



Carpenter

Description Carpenters construct, erect, install, finish and repair wooden and metal structures and fixtures on residential and commercial buildings. They may also work on large concrete, steel and timber structures such as bridges, dams, power stations and civil engineering projects.

Job Prospects/Employment Opportunities

Carpenters may work as subcontractors or may be employed by building and construction companies, group training companies, small firms that carry out contract building work, or federal, state and territory government departments. Some carpenters establish their own businesses and employ other workers. Employment opportunities depend on the level of activity in the building construction industry, however it is a large occupation with good employment prospects at present.

Carpenters are normally employed on housing estates, construction and civil engineering projects, and for maintenance in large factories, hospitals, institutions and private homes.

- Typical Duties**
- Construct formwork into which concrete is poured
 - Set out an outline of the building on the ground of the site, using string and pegs to allow for excavations
 - Build floors, wall frameworks (timber or metal), roofs and suspended ceilings, and lay timber floors
 - Read plans and specifications to determine the materials required, dimensions and installation processes
 - Install metal and timber windows, sashes and doors
 - Construct and erect prefabricated units, such as cottages and houses
 - Cut materials with hand and power tools, and assemble or nail, cut and shape parts
 - Install door handles, locks, hardware, flooring underlay, insulating material and other fixtures
 - Maintain and sharpen tools.

Personal Requirements

- Enjoy practical work
- Able to work with your hands
- Good sense of balance and ability to work at heights
- Good at mathematics
- Good health and eyesight
- Able to work as part of a team

Work Conditions

Carpenters work on building sites, construction and civil engineering projects, and maintenance in large factories and hospitals. They may work outdoors when erecting the framing for buildings, or indoors when finishing interior fixtures or maintaining existing buildings. They may have to travel between sites.

Entry Pathway To become a carpenter it is most likely you will have to complete an apprenticeship. Entry requirements may vary, but employers generally require Year 10.

Training is both on and off the job. The off-the-job training is provided through a Registered Training Organisation, including TAFE. Ask your career adviser about the possibility of starting some of this training in school.

Some people may complete a pre-apprenticeship or pre-vocational course before entering an apprenticeship. If you are still at school, **doorways2construction™** is the best first step into this career. Ask your VET coordinator for more details.

Course or Training Package

- Certificate III in Carpentry

Specialisations

With further training and experience, a carpenter could become a clerk of works, building supervisor, building and construction manager, building inspector, technical teacher, estimator, building contract administrator or purchasing officer.

- Related Jobs**
- Fixing Carpenter
 - Formwork Carpenter
 - Cabinetmaker
 - Shopfitter
 - Joiner

Further Information

- CITB [www.citb.org.au]
- Construction Industry Skills Board [<http://www.constructionskills.com.au>]
- **doorways2construction™** [<http://www.doorways2construction.org.au/>]
- Construction Forestry Mining and Energy Union (CFMEU) [<http://www.cfmeu.asn.au/construction/states/sa/>]
- Housing Industry Association [<http://hia.com.au/hia/region/SA.aspx>]
- Master Builder's Association [<http://www.mbas.com.au/scripts/cgiip.exe/WService=MBASA/ccms.r>]
- Big Plans [www.bigplans.com.au/]
- Be Constructive [www.beconstructive.com.au/]