



Plumber

Description Plumbers lay out, test and maintain pipes, fixtures, metal roofing, fittings, gas meters and regulators. They install equipment such as boilers, pumps, heating and cooling systems, natural gas appliances, water tanks and solar water heating systems.

This group of trades' people comprises a number of specialised areas, including plumbers, gas fitters, roof plumbers, drainers, fire protection workers and irrigation installers.

Job Prospects/Employment Opportunities

Most plumbers are employed by plumbing firms that do small domestic plumbing and repair work. Many are employed by large plumbing firms and some work directly for the building industry on new constructions. Many plumbers are self-employed. Plumbers may also work for State Government departments concerned with public works.

Usually demand is linked with activity in the construction industry. However, unlike other building trades, downturns in building activity have less effect on plumbers because of the work available in renovation and maintenance. Demand is also more stable because, by law, a licence is required to perform most plumbing jobs.

- Typical Duties**
- Prepare and/or study drawings and specifications to work out the layout of plumbing systems and materials needed
 - Find and mark position for connections, then cut holes through walls and floors to accommodate pipes, measure pipes and mark cutting or bending lines
 - Cut, thread and bend pipes, assemble and install piping, valves and fittings, join pipe sections and secure pipes
 - Test lines as required by local plumbing regulations
 - Install equipment such as boilers, pumps, heating and cooling systems, gas appliances, water tanks, water heaters, solar water heating systems, fixtures such as toilets, wash basins and industrial processing units
 - Maintain and repair plumbing systems

Personal Requirements

- Enjoy practical work
- Able to calculate weights and measures
- Physically fit with good mobility and good hand-eye coordination
- Able to work independently
- Able to work at heights or in confined spaces and in various weather conditions
- Good interpersonal skills

Entry Pathway Entry to this occupation is through an apprenticeship which includes on and off-the-job training. This will generally require successful completion of Year 11 level maths or equivalent.

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 Plumbing

Specialisations

- Drainer
- Gasfitter
- Sanitary Plumber
- Gas Main and Line Fitter
- Mechanical Services and Air-conditioning Plumber

With experience and further training, plumbers can become: Technical Sales Representatives; Building Supervisors; Plumbing Inspectors; Hydraulics consultants; Technical teachers; Estimators; Building contract administrators; Purchasing Officers; or start their own business.

Additional Information

Post-trade studies are available to improve skills or to fulfil registration requirements for more specialised areas such as gasfitters, urban irrigation hydraulics and fire protection.

- Related Jobs**
- Heating and Ventilation Plumber
 - Fire Services Plumber

Further Information

- CITB [www.citb.org.au]
- Construction Industry Skills Board [<http://www.constructionskills.com.au>]
- **doorways2construction™** [<http://www.doorways2construction.org.au/>]
- Communications Electrical Plumbing Union [<http://www.cepu.asn.au/>]
- Traineeship & Apprenticeship Services www.employment.sa.gov.au
- The Plumbing Industry Association of SA [<http://www.plumbingindustry.com.au>]
- The Air Conditioning and Mechanical Contractors Association [<http://www.amca.com.au/> and <http://www.amcasa.com.au/>]
- Group Training Australia SA Inc [http://www.gtald.com.au/gta_sa.html]
- Big Plans [www.bigplans.com.au/]