



Solid Plasterer

Description Solid plasterers apply decorative and protective coverings of plaster, cement or similar materials to the interiors and exteriors of buildings.

Job prospects/Employment Opportunities

Solid plasterers are employed by plastering subcontracting firms, and building and construction companies. Significant proportions are self-employed.

Employment prospects are reasonably good. Trade qualifications are sought after but are not essential. Opportunities for solid plasterers are dependent on building industry and renovation demand. Industry downturns are less likely to affect qualified tradespeople.

- Typical duties**
- Level and straighten corners, angles, and wall and ceiling surfaces
 - Clean and prepare surfaces by stapling wire-mesh frames to them, or by roughening them with mechanical hammers
 - Mix and apply coats of plaster, cement, render or similar materials to walls and ceilings, levelling and smoothing them by using trowels
 - Apply finishing coats of plaster to give a smooth finish or decorative texture
 - Fix precast cornices and panel mouldings, ceiling centres and other plaster fittings
 - Render exterior walls and moulds
 - Finish underside of concrete floors with a mixture of cement and granite chips or blue metal
 - Erect scaffolding (subject to licence requirements in some states or territories) and trestles.

Personal requirements

- Enjoy practical work
- Good hand-eye coordination
- Able to learn to work from plans
- Willing to work at heights on scaffolding or ladders
- Good health and stamina, and free from allergies to materials used.

Work Conditions

Solid plasterers work alone or in teams of two or three, indoors and outdoors. The main tasks are usually performed standing up for periods of at least two hours at a stretch.

Entry pathway To become a solid plasterer you usually have to complete an apprenticeship in Solid Plastering. Entry requirements may vary, but employers generally require Year 10.

Training is usually both on and off the job. The off-the-job training is provided through Registered Training Organisations, 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 Solid Plastering

Related Jobs

- Bricklayer
- Fibrous Plasterer
- Building Contractor
- Floor Finisher and Coverer

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/cjiip.exe/WService=MBASA/ccms.r>]
- Big Plans [www.bigplans.com.au/]
- Be Constructive [www.beconstructive.com.au/]