

CARPENTRY

Carpenter

Do you like working with wood or steel? Can you be precise and accurate in your work? Are you creative? Are you good with your hands? Do you have an eye for detail? Do you have strong maths skills? Then, you could be a carpenter!

What the work is like

Carpenters build, install, maintain and repair structures made of wood or wood substitutes.

They are employed by construction companies, carpentry contractors and maintenance departments or they may be self-employed.

Carpenters work in the new home building and renovation, heavy industrial, and institutional and commercial construction sectors.

Your duties

As a carpenter, your duties may include:

- Building foundations, installing floor beams, laying sub-flooring, and installing walls and roofing systems
- Fitting and installing trim, doors, stairs, moulding and hardware
- Measuring, cutting and joining materials made of wood or wood substitutes
- Repairing and renovating wooden structures
- Preparing cost estimates for clients

- Reading and interpreting blueprints, drawings and sketches



Work conditions

Carpenters' working conditions vary from one job to another. Some carpenters work indoors and work a standard 40-hour week (8 hours a day, 5 days a week). Other carpenters work outdoors and may work varied hours, depending on the project demands.

As with many careers in construction, there are peak periods that will require you to work overtime. The number of additional hours you work each week depends on the construction sector and region you work in, and will vary from one job to the next.

Carpenters may work alone, in teams, or with helpers. The job can be physically demanding. You will often have to lift heavy materials and work with sharp tools. The work is also mentally challenging—you may have to make quick mental calculations.

As with all careers in the construction industry, safety is the top priority. Carpenters are trained to work safely, and take special precautions to protect themselves from injury.

Building your career

With experience and additional training, you can move into supervisory positions, such as foreman or construction superintendent. You can also become self-employed and work as a contractor or subcontractor.

As with most careers in the construction industry, your skills are portable. If you want to move, you can take your skills with you.

More information:

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