

SCHOOLS 2 SKILLS

CARPENTER & JOINER – CAREER OVERVIEW

Carpenters and Joiners need a broad knowledge of building methods and timbers as they work with wood, wood substitutes and other materials to make, install, repair or renovate structures, fixtures and fittings used in a wide variety of residential and commercial construction projects.

What might a carpenter and joiner's working day look like?

Your work will vary according to the type of job: residential construction, other construction (commercial, industrial) or maintenance.

In residential jobs you may:

- + Build the house framework, walls, roof frame and exterior finish
- + Install doors, windows, flooring, cabinets, stairs, handrails, panelling, moulding and ceiling tiles

In other construction jobs you may build concrete forms, scaffolding, bridges, trestles, tunnels, shelters, towers and other structures, or repair and maintain existing structures of all kinds. Some carpenters specialise in a particular type of work such as framing, bench work or finishing work.

As a carpenter and joiner you must be able to:

- + Read blueprints and/or get instructions from a supervisor
- + Do the layout (select materials, planning sequences and methods of work, and measure and mark materials to avoid costly mistakes or omissions)
- + Cut and shape materials and join them with nails, screws, bolts or glue
- + Check completed units to be sure they are level, square, plumb and the right size, shape and location
- + Estimate the quantity of materials required by proper measuring or reviewing a work order
- + Interpret drawings and blueprints and calculate the materials required
- + Work accurately and economically and follow national and local building codes

To be a successful carpenter and joiner you should:

- + Have a careful, methodical and accurate approach to work
- + Be interested in practical work and have good manual skills
- + Have an awareness of safety issues, especially for working at heights
- + Have the ability to work as part of a team and with other tradespeople
- + Be physically fit.



Where does a carpenter and joiner work?

Carpenters and joiners work inside and outdoors depending on the job they are employed on. Joiners are mostly based in workshops while carpenters often travel between sites once each job is complete.

What can the future hold?

If you're ambitious and willing to work hard, there are no limits to where a career as a carpenter and joiner can take you. You can work as a sub-contractor or even start your own company. Many business owners, supervisors and senior managers in the construction industry started their careers as tradespeople.

Fantastic! How do I get started?

To become a tradesperson and get a trade certificate you'll need to complete an **apprenticeship**. Several qualification pathways are available in the carpentry and joinery trades. These include Carpentry and Joinery; Carpentry (Housing); Joinery (Housing); Carpentry Framing (Housing); Carpentry Fixing (Housing) and Carpentry Formwork (Housing). For further information about gaining an apprenticeship, search Apprenticentre or call 13 19 54