

SCHOOLS 2 SKILLS

CIVIL CONSTRUCTION—CAREER OVERVIEW

Civil Construction workers are everywhere. They are employed by contractors on major residential subdivision projects, from initial works to final streetscape beautification and maintenance; major road works including freeways; bridges; airports; and railway works and by local Governments to repair and maintain vital infrastructure. A civil construction worker is typically involved in all facets of general civil construction works, including manual excavation, concreting, laying pipes, pavement repair, grade checking and simple levelling, site drainage and traffic control.

What might a civil construction worker's working day look like?

Your work will vary according to the type of construction job, industry sector you are employed in and certificate level you have achieved.

Civil construction workers may be involved in

- + Handling construction materials and safe disposal of waste
- + Compacting, levelling and spreading materials to form roads and footpaths
- + Performing minor repairs to road surfaces, maintaining bridges and repairing signs and signposts
- + General road side maintenance such as grass cutting and weed control
- + Directing traffic through construction areas
- + Loading and unloading equipment and cleaning work sites
- + Digging trenches so that footings and services can be laid, using hand tools and jackhammers if necessary to break up rock and concrete
- + Learning to drive backhoes, bulldozers, excavators, front-end loaders, graders, scrapers, skid steer loaders, rollers and forklift trucks
- + Operating machinery to level, excavate, move and load earth, rock and other material

To be a successful construction worker you should:

- + Have good concentration skills and be able to follow verbal instructions accurately
- + Be able to visually judge distances
- + Have a careful, methodical and accurate approach to work
- + Be interested in practical work and have good manual skills
- + Have a strong awareness of safety issues
- + Have the ability to work as part of a team
- + Be physically fit and like outdoor work

Where are civil construction workers employed?

Civil construction workers mainly work outdoors on large infrastructure, construction servicing, road construction and maintenance, residential subdivision and bulk earthworks, foundation work, railway construction and maintenance, tunnel construction and pipe-laying.

What can the future hold?

If you're ambitious, willing to work hard and undertake further training, there are no limits to where a career as a construction worker can take you. You can be employed on large construction projects or even start your own company.

Fantastic! How do I get started?

If you're at school, you can enrol in a Certificate II Civil Construction qualification as part of your WACE. For further information about Certificate II and III **traineeships** in the civil construction sector, search Apprenticentre or call 13 19 54

For additional information contact the Civil Contractors Federation on (08) 9414 1486 or visit their website at civilcontractors.com

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