

SCHOOLS 2 SKILLS

GENERAL CONSTRUCTION WORKER— CAREER OVERVIEW

Starting out as a **general construction worker** is a great way to pick up specialised skills on the job, and get a building industry qualification. General construction workers can be found on almost all construction sites performing a wide range of tasks. They work on building, road, and heavy construction sites; tunnel and shaft excavations; and demolition sites. Usually known as **trade's assistants** or **builder's labourers**, they often specialise by working with particular tradespeople such as bricklayers, carpenters and plasterers.

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

Each day can be different depending on the job, and you will be involved in:

+ Learning to assist tradespeople on building and construction sites by doing a range of unskilled and semi-skilled jobs.

As a construction worker you must be able to:

- + Unload, carry and stack building materials and place tools and equipment in position
- + Dig trenches for footings and services using hand tools and jackhammers.
- + Place and compact filling and quarry materials.
- + Assist to erect and dismantle scaffolding (subject to certification), ramps, catwalks, barricades and warning lights
- + Mix, pour and spread concrete
- + Use wheelbarrows to remove rubble and rubbish from building sites

To be a successful general construction worker you should:

- + Have a careful, methodical and accurate approach to work
- + Be able to follow precise instructions
- + Enjoy doing a practical job
- + Be aware of safety issues, particularly working at heights and on construction sites
- + Have the ability to work as part of a team
- + Be physically fit and enjoy working outdoors

Where does a general construction worker work?

Usually outside in the fresh air, travelling between sites once each job is complete.

You could be working on new residential, commercial and industrial developments, civil construction sites, or local Government works.

What can the future hold?

If you're ambitious and willing to work hard, there are no limits to where a career in general construction can take you. With further study and training you can take the next step into civil construction or a traditional trade, 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 start your career in general construction it's a good idea to gain and complete a **traineeship**. For further information about gaining a traineeship, search Apprenticentre or call 13 19 54

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