

# SCHOOLS 2 SKILLS

## PLUMBER & GASFITTER – CAREER OVERVIEW

**Plumbers** are responsible for installing more than just plumbing inside a house. They use a variety of skills, tools and materials to install systems for hot and cold water, heating, sanitation, drainage and guttering, while consistently ensuring their work complies with regulations. They fit pipework to baths, toilets, sinks, water pumps, hot and cold water storage systems, and install, test and maintain gas systems and appliances. In commercial buildings they also work on other piped services such as air-conditioning and extraction systems.

### What might a plumber and gasfitter's working day look like?

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

- + Renovating, maintaining and repairing existing plumbing
- + Installing, maintaining and repairing hot water systems
- + Digging trenches for drainage pipes
- + Assembling and installing valves and fittings and joining pipe sections

### As a plumber and gasfitter you must be able to:

- + Understand building plans and specifications to determine the layout for the plumbing and other materials
- + Follow building codes, state licensing laws, regulations and accepted safety practices
- + Determine size and type of pipe, equipment, appliances and devices to use
- + Test, identify and select the correct piping and related materials
- + Install vents and flues
- + Connect gas appliances such as hot water heaters, ovens, boilers and furnaces
- + Test and replace defective equipment or components
- + Start up and adjust new or repaired equipment, and prepare reports

### To be a successful plumber and gasfitter you should:

- + Be able to understand technical drawings and plans
- + Have a careful, methodical and accurate approach to work
- + Have the ability to solve problems
- + Enjoy doing a practical job
- + Have an awareness of safety issues, especially for working at heights and in confined spaces
- + Have the ability to work as part of a team
- + Be physically fit

### Where does a plumber and gasfitter work?

A plumber's day can hold lots of variety and they can be found working both inside and outside on domestic homes, commercial buildings and industrial sites.

### What can the future hold?

If you're ambitious and willing to work hard, there are no limits to where a career as a plumber and gasfitter 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 in plumbing and gasfitting you'll need to complete an **apprenticeship**. For further information about gaining an apprenticeship, search Apprenticentre or call 13 19 54 or contact MPA Skills on (08) 9471 6600 or visit [mpaskills.com.au](http://mpaskills.com.au)

### SKILLS FROM SCHOOLS

