

Plumber



Description Plumbers lay out, test and maintain pipes, fixtures, metal roofing, fittings, gas meters and regulators. They install equipment such as boilers, pumps, heating and cooling systems, natural gas appliances, water tanks and solar water heating systems

- Typical duties**
- prepare and/or study drawings and specifications to work out the layout of plumbing systems and materials needed;
 - find and mark position for connections, then cut holes through walls and floors to accommodate pipes, measure pipes and mark cutting or bending lines;
 - cut, thread and bend pipes, assemble and install piping, valves and fittings, join pipe sections and secure pipes;
 - test lines as required by local plumbing regulations;
 - install equipment such as boilers, pumps, heating and cooling systems, gas appliances, water tanks, water heaters, solar water heating systems, fixtures such as toilets, wash basins and industrial processing units;
 - maintain and repair plumbing systems.

- Personal requirements**
- enjoy practical work;
 - good hand-eye coordination;
 - able to work independently;
 - able to work at heights and in various weather conditions;
 - physically fit;
 - good interpersonal skills;
 - good mobility.

Qualification Certificate III in Plumbing

Entry pathway Entry to this occupation is generally through an apprenticeship which includes on and off-the-job training. This will generally require successful completion of Year 10 or equivalent.

Some people may complete a pre-apprenticeship course before entering an apprenticeship.



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Job prospects Most plumbers are employed by plumbing firms that do small domestic plumbing and repair work. Many are employed by large plumbing firms and some work directly for the building industry on new constructions. Many plumbers are self-employed. Plumbers may also work for State Government departments concerned with public works.

Usually demand is linked with activity in the construction industry. However, unlike other building trades, downturns in building activity have less effect on plumbers because of the work available in renovation and maintenance. Demand is also more stable because, by law, certain jobs must be performed by plumbers.

- Specialisations**
- Drainer
 - Gasfitter
 - Sanitary Plumber
 - Gas Main and Line Fitter
 - Mechanical Services and Airconditioning Plumber

With experience and further training, plumbers can become: Technical Sales Representatives; Building Supervisors; Plumbing Inspectors; Hydraulics consultants; Technical teachers; Estimators; Building contract administrators; Purchasing Officers; or start their own business

- Related Jobs**
- Heating and Ventilation Plumber
 - Fire Services Plumber

- Further information**
- Big Plans [www.bigplans.com.au/]
 - Be Constructive [www.beconstructive.com.au/]
 - The Master Plumbers' & Mechanical Services Association of Australia [www.plumbingcareer.com.au/]