

# Carpenter



## Description

Carpenters construct, erect, install, finish and repair wooden and metal structures and fixtures on residential and commercial buildings. They may also work on large concrete, steel and timber structures such as bridges, dams, power stations and civil engineering projects.

Carpenters work on building sites, construction and civil engineering projects, and maintenance in large factories and hospitals. They may work outdoors when erecting the framing for buildings, or indoors when finishing interior fixtures or maintaining existing buildings. They may have to travel between sites.

Joiners are usually employed by firms that specialise in joinery work and work mainly indoors.

## Typical duties

- construct formwork into which concrete is poured;
- set out an outline of the building on the ground of the site, using string and pegs to allow for excavations;
- build floors, wall frameworks (timber or metal), roofs and suspended ceilings, and lay timber floors;
- read plans and specifications to determine the materials required, dimensions and installation processes;
- install metal and timber windows, sashes and doors;
- construct and erect prefabricated units, such as cottages and houses;
- cut materials with hand and power tools, and assemble or nail, cut and shape parts;
- install door handles, locks, hardware, flooring underlay, insulating material and other fixtures;
- maintain and sharpen tools.

## Personal

### Requirements

- enjoy practical work;
- able to work with your hands;
- a sense of balance and ability to work at heights;
- good at mathematics;
- good health and eyesight;
- able to work as part of a team.

## Qualification

- Certificate II in General Construction
- Certificate III in General Construction (Carpentry)



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

Completion of a pre-apprenticeship course can decrease the length of time of the apprenticeship.

**Job prospects** Carpenters may work as subcontractors or may be employed by building and construction companies, group training companies, small firms that carry out contract building work, or federal, state and territory government departments. Some carpenters establish their own businesses and employ other workers.

Employment prospects depend on the level of activity in the building construction industry. This is affected by government policy on interest rates, spending on major projects and the availability of finance to homebuyers. With further training and experience carpenters and joiners can become clerks of works, building forepersons, building construction managers, building inspectors, technical teachers, estimators, building contract administrators or purchasing officers, etc.

**Related Jobs**

- Fixing Carpenter
- Joinery Machiner
- Joinery Setter-out
- Shopfitter
- Formwork Carpenter
- Joinery Patternmaker
- Prop and Scenery Maker

**Further information**

- Housing Industry Association [[www.hia.com.au/](http://www.hia.com.au/)]
- Master Builders Australia [[www.masterbuilders.com.au/](http://www.masterbuilders.com.au/)]
- Group Training Australia [[www.gtald.com.au/](http://www.gtald.com.au/)]

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