

CAREERS IN BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION

Carpenter & Joiner

Carpenters and joiners construct, erect, install, finish and repair wooden and metal structures and fixtures used on the inside and outside of buildings, both for residential and commercial constructions. Carpenters may also work on large concrete, steel and timber structures such as bridges, dams, power stations and civil engineering construction. Carpenters may perform tasks including:

- ◆ setting out an outline of the building on the ground with string and pegs to allow for excavations;
- ◆ erecting the floor and wall framework (timber or metal), pitching the roof, erecting suspended ceilings and laying timber floors;
- ◆ reading plans and specifications;
- ◆ installing metal and timber windows and sashes, and metal and timber doors;
- ◆ constructing and erecting prefabricated units, eg cottages and houses.

Joiners may perform tasks including:

- ◆ manufacturing items such as window frames, sashes and doors;
- ◆ manufacturing architectural joinery and staircases;
- ◆ interpreting working drawings or plans; and
- ◆ selecting materials and marking out components required for specific designs.

Carpenters work on building sites, construction and civil engineering projects, and in 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 they work mainly indoors.

Personal Requirements

- ◆ able to work with hands
- ◆ a sense of balance and able to work at heights (for carpenters)
- ◆ some maths skills
- ◆ good health and eyesight
- ◆ must like working in a team
- ◆ good communication skills

Education and Training

Entry to this occupation is through an apprenticeship

- ◆ Carpentry and Joinery (Pre-apprenticeship)
- ◆ Certificate II in Building and Construction – Fitout and Finish (Carpentry)
- ◆ Certificate III in Building and Construction – Fitout and Finish (Carpentry)
- ◆ Carpentry and Joinery (Apprenticeship)

