



Construction Trades I

Career Explorations:

Plumbing

April 8, 2020



10-12/ Construction Trades I
Career Explorations/Plumbing: [April 8, 2020]

Objective/Learning Target:
Students will explore plumbing as a career.

Plumber Career Info

Plumbers install and maintain plumbing fixtures like bathtubs, sinks, and showers for residential, commercial, and industrial clients. They also install and repair water and gas pipes, drainage systems, waste disposal systems, and appliances, such as dishwashers and water heaters. Plumbers often work on-call and may have to work nights and weekends.

Plumber Career Info

The nature of the job requires travel to multiple work sites on a regular basis. Injuries like cuts or burns are common in this profession. Some plumbers are self-employed and have the freedom to set their own schedules. Full-time and overtime are common for this profession.

Plumber Career Info

Successful plumbers usually have solid math and problem-solving skills, high mechanical aptitude, good manual dexterity and a tolerance for working in cramped spaces. Together, plumbers, pipefitters, and steamfitters earned a median annual salary of \$53,910 in 2018, said the Bureau of Labor and Statistics.

Watch The Video:

How to Become a
Plumber

What does it take to become a plumber

Education	High school diploma or equivalent
Licensure/Certification	Most states require licensure; voluntary certification available
Training	4-5 year apprenticeship
Key Skills	Math, customer service, and decision-making skills; ability to use pressure gauges, augers, pullers, and wrenches; physical strength
Salary	\$53,910 (2018 median salary for all plumbers, pipefitters, and steamfitters)

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS)

How Can I become a plumber

Step 1: Meet Plumber Education Requirements

According to the BLS, a high school diploma or GED is required for those interested in pursuing a career in plumbing. During high school years, students may find it useful to look for an entry-level job within the field where they can begin to learn about the career. Additionally, students can begin to learn the soft skills required for the role, including communication and problem-solving skills.

Step 2: Attend Plumbing Trade School

Although formal training is not necessarily required to become a plumber, it can aid in advancement and teach students useful skills that can come in handy on the job. Many trade or technical schools and community colleges offer formal training programs for aspiring plumbers. These are typically short certificate training programs that last about one year. Plumbing courses usually cover topics such as water supply and drainage systems, as well as piping, venting, fittings, and valves. Students can expect to learn plumbing skills and maintenance. They can use this training to begin an apprenticeship as a plumber or go on to earn an associate's degree.

Step 3: Complete a Plumbing Apprenticeship

The next step to becoming a plumber is to complete a plumbing apprenticeship. **Apprenticeship programs** are provided by local unions and their affiliates, as well as by non-union contractors. These programs last from four to five years and combine paid on-the-job training with classroom instruction, which can be either paid or unpaid. On-the-job training should total anywhere from 1,700 to 2,000 hours per year, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Apprentices learn local plumbing codes, as well as all types of plumbing procedures, from primary installation of plumbing fixtures to repair and maintenance of water pipes. Trainees also gain special plumbing skills, such as choosing materials and plumbing fittings, identifying grades and types of pipes, and using the tools of their trade.

Step 4: Get Licensed

Most states require that plumbers be licensed, although there are no national uniform licensing standards. In most states, plumbers must have two to five years of work experience before they can take an examination and obtain a license. The exam requires applicants to know all the local codes for plumbing. In some states, plumbers who plan to work on gas lines will need to acquire an additional license.

The licensing exam assesses an applicant's knowledge of plumbing codes and practices. Some states may offer exam outlines that can be used as study guides. It is important for those who wish to become licensed to take advantage of study materials and ask questions while working as apprentices.

Step 5: Get Certified

In addition to apprenticeship and licensure, plumbers may choose to earn certification. While certification is not required, it might help plumbers advance in their profession and take advantage of new job opportunities. In response to a growing awareness of the need to conserve water, the **Plumbing-Heating-Cooling Contractors Association** has teamed with **GreenPlumbers USA** to train and certify plumbers in water and energy efficiency technologies. **National Inspection Testing Certification (NITC)** also offers the Journey Level Plumber certification. Having certification in these areas may give plumbers an edge and open up higher level or better paying employment opportunities.

Plumbing fun facts

1. Plumbers work a standard 8 to 5 job like everyone else.

- True
- False

Answer: False

Plumbers are often on call 24 hours
a day 7 days a week.

2. The average salary for a plumber according to the Bureau of Labor and Statistics is ?

- \$20,000 - \$30,000 annually

- \$30,000 - \$40,000 annually

- \$40,000 - \$50,000 annually

- \$50,000 - \$60,000 annually

**Answer: \$50,000
- \$60,000**

According to the Bureau of Labor and
Statistics the median income for a plumber
in 2018 was \$53,910

3. A plumber's apprentice will spend _____ years as an apprentice.

- 1 to 2
- 2 to 3
- 3 to 4
- 4 to 5

Answer: 3 to 4

A plumber's apprentice will spend 3-4 years mastering the trade. An average of 1700 to 2000 hours a year.

4. Plumber's work indoors only and do not have to worry about working in the elements?

- True
- False

Answer: False

A plumber could be working in doors one day and outdoors the next.

5. A plumber should possess which of the following skills.

- Math Skills
- Customer service
- Decision-making skills ability to tools of the trade
- Physical strength
- All of the Above
- None of the Above

Answer: All of the above

Key skills of a plumber include: Math, customer service, and decision-making skills; ability to use pressure gauges, augers, pullers, and wrenches; physical strength

6. You do not have to have a High School diploma or GED to become a plumber?

-True

-False

Answer: False

Almost all states require that an individual have a high school diploma or GED in order to start the program.

7. You must attend a 4-year college in order to become a Plumber?

-True

-False

Answer: False

Plumbing is a skilled trade and you can enter the pathway in a variety of ways

8. How can I become a Plumber?

- Meet Plumber Education Requirements
- Attend Plumbing Trade School
- Complete a Plumbing Apprenticeship
- Get Licensed
- Get Certified
- All of the above

**Answer: All of
the above**

Credits

- x Bureau of Labor and Statistics
- x Stay.com

