



# Carpenter

## About

Carpenters construct, repair, and install building frameworks and structures made from wood and other materials. Carpenters have many different tasks. Some carpenters insulate office buildings; others install drywall or kitchen cabinets in homes. Still others focus on production or commercial work to help construct tall buildings or bridges, installing wooden concrete forms for cement footings or pillars. These carpenters also erect shoring and scaffolding for buildings.

## Job Outlook and Salary



- Projected regional employment in 2024 is **24,650**
- The average annual wage is **\$70,599** (Seattle MSA)
- Hourly wages range from **\$24.02/HR** (25<sup>th</sup> percentile) to **\$39.57/HR** (75<sup>th</sup> percentile)

## Job Tasks



- Follow blueprints and building plans to meet the needs of clients
- Install structures and fixtures, such as windows and molding
- Measure, cut, and shape wood, plastic, and other materials
- Construct and install building frameworks, including walls, floors, and door frames
- Inspect and replace damaged framework or other structures and fixtures
- Instruct and direct laborers and other construction helpers

## Education and Training



- **A high school diploma or equivalent** is typically required to enter the occupation. Certain high school courses, such as mathematics and mechanical drawing, may be useful. Some vocational-technical schools offer Associate's degrees in carpentry. The programs vary in length and teach basics and specialties in carpentry.
- **Carpenters typically learn on the job or through apprenticeships.** They often begin doing simple tasks, such as measuring and cutting wood, under the guidance of experienced carpenters or other construction workers. They then progress to more complex tasks, such as reading blueprints and building wooden structures.
- **Several groups, such as unions and contractor associations, sponsor apprenticeship programs.** For each year of a typical program, apprentices must complete a predetermined number of hours of technical training and paid on-the-job training. Apprenticeship program requirements differ based on the type of program and by region. Apprentices learn carpentry basics, blueprint reading, mathematics, building code requirements, and safety and first aid practices.

## Licensures



- All carpenters must pass the **Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) 10-hour safety course**.
- Carpenters **may need a driver's license** to travel to jobsites.

## Work Schedule



- Most carpenters work full time, which may include evenings and weekends to meet clients' deadlines. Extreme temperatures or inclement weather may impact building construction timelines, which in turn may affect carpenters' work hours.

## Skills



- **Business skills.** Self-employed carpenters must conduct activities such as bidding on new jobs, tracking inventory, and directing workers.
- **Detail oriented.** Carpenters must be able to precisely cut, measure, and modify the materials they work with.
- **Dexterity.** Carpenters use many tools and need hand-eye coordination to avoid injuring themselves or damaging materials.
- **Interpersonal skills.** Carpenters need to work as a member of a team, cooperating with and assisting others. They also may interact with customers.
- **Math skills.** Carpenters frequently use math skills, including basic trigonometry, to calculate the area, size, and amount of material needed for the job.
- **Physical strength.** Carpenters use heavy tools and materials that weigh up to 100 pounds. They also must be able to stand, climb, or bend for many hours.
- **Problem-solving skills.** Carpenters may work independently with little guidance. They need to be able to modify building materials and make adjustments onsite to complete projects.
- **Reading comprehension skills.** Carpenters need advanced reading ability to understand and follow complex instructions for installing certain products, such as doors.

## Technology



- **Accounting software:** Intuit QuickBooks; Intuit Quicken; Job costing software
- **Project management software:** Bosch Punch List; Estimating software; Turtle Creek Software Goldenseal; VirtualBoss
- **Office suite software:** Microsoft Word; Excel

## Opportunities for Advancement



- Carpenters are involved in many phases of construction and may have opportunities to become **first-line supervisors, lead carpenters, independent contractors, or general construction supervisors**.

## Education and Training Resources

The following regional education and training programs are examples of programs in the region that can help you obtain education and credentials to become a Carpenter. Some programs may require additional preparation and completion of prerequisites.



County	Programs
King County	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Construction Industry Training Council of Washington, Bellevue (<a href="https://citcwa.org/">https://citcwa.org/</a>)</li> <li>Green River College (<a href="https://www.greenriver.edu/">https://www.greenriver.edu/</a>)</li> <li>Seattle Central College (<a href="https://seattlecentral.edu/">https://seattlecentral.edu/</a>)</li> </ul>
Pierce County	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bates College (<a href="https://www.batestech.edu/">https://www.batestech.edu/</a>)</li> <li>Construction Industry Training Council of Washington, Tacoma (<a href="https://citcwa.org/">https://citcwa.org/</a>)</li> </ul>
Snohomish County	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Construction Industry Training Council of Washington, Marysville (<a href="https://citcwa.org/">https://citcwa.org/</a>)</li> </ul>

## Resources to Scholarships and Assistance Programs

- Washington State Opportunity Scholarship: <https://www.waopportunityscholarship.org/about/>
- Washington College Grant: <https://wsac.wa.gov/wcg>

## References

2021 Occupational Employment and Wage Estimates. (2021). Retrieved December 16, 2021 from <https://media.esd.wa.gov/esdwa/Default/ESDWAGOV/labor-market-info/Libraries/Occupational-reports/OES/2021-Occupational-employment-and-wage-estimates.pdf>

Carpenters at My Next Move. (n.d.). Retrieved August 18, 2021, from <https://www.mynextmove.org/profile/summary/47-2031.00>

Carpenters: Occupational Outlook Handbook: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. (n.d.). Retrieved December 6, 2021, from <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/construction-and-extraction/carpenters.htm#tab-1>

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Washington Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board. Retrieved January 25, 2022. *Washington Career Bridge*.

Washington Career Bridge. <https://www.careerbridge.wa.gov/>