

CONSTRUCTION CAREERS

The following are lists of construction occupational titles and a brief description of what these craft persons do.

Boilermaker

Boilermakers make, install, and repair boilers, vats, and other large vessels that hold liquids and gases.

Bricklayer

Bricklayers work on commercial and residential projects where they lay bricks, block stone, glass block or terra cotta to build interior and exterior walls, partitions, fireplaces, chimneys, smokestacks and other structures.

Carpenter

A carpenter is a skilled craft worker who performs a wide range of structural woodworking that includes constructing buildings, furniture, and other large objects out of wood.

Cement Mason/Plasterer

Cement masons smooth and finish exposed concrete surfaces on projects such as walls, floors, steps, sidewalks, driveways and roads, primarily in commercial and industrial settings. A Plasterer applies coats of plaster and decorative coverings of other materials to walls and ceilings of buildings to produce finished and/or fireproofed surfaces.

Construction Craft Laborer

Construction craft laborers perform a wide range of non-special trade, construction work and are employed in all areas of commercial, industrial and residential construction.

Electrician

An electrician plans, assembles, installs, connects, repairs, tests and maintains electrical fixtures and control equipment that provide heat, light and power in residential, commercial and industrial buildings. They also install, repair, and test telecommunications equipment (voice) or data communications.

Elevator Constructor

Elevator constructors handle the installation, repair, and maintenance of elevators, escalators, moving walks, dumbwaiters, manlifts, all types of handicap lifts.

Glazier

Glaziers cut, fit, and install plate glass, ordinary window glass, mirrors, and other glass items in structures being built, remodeled, or repaired.

Insulator/Asbestos Worker

An insulator applies, prefabricates, mixes and dismantles different types of insulation. The Asbestos Worker removes old asbestos from pipes and vessels.

Iron Worker

Iron workers erect structural steel components, reinforce steel, post tension tendons, install conveyors and robotic equipment and perform reconstructive work on existing structures and bridges.

Millwright

Millwrights install, repair, dismantle, move, and assemble machinery and equipment in an industrial establishment according to layout plans, blueprints, and other drawings.

Operating Engineer

Operating engineers use various types of power driven machinery to move construction materials, earth, and other materials and to apply asphalt and concrete to roads and other surfaces.

Painter/Drywall Finisher

Painters prepare and paint a wide variety of surfaces in commercial, industrial and residential environments. Drywall Finishers prepare gypsum board walls and ceilings for specific final painting by taping and finishing drywall seams.

Plumber/Pipefitter

Plumbers install, alter and repair water and waste disposal systems. They select the type and size of pipe required for a project and measure, shape and join pipes according to specifications. A Pipefitter also known as a Steamfitter constructs and repairs piping systems that carry water, steam, chemicals and fuel sometimes under high pressure.

Road Sprinkler Fitter

Road sprinkler fitters are pipefitting specialists who install, test, inspect, certify and maintain all types of fire suppression systems in all types of residential, industrial and commercial buildings.

Roofer

Roofers install and remove roofs on buildings and other structures to make them waterproof and weatherproof. They also waterproof or damp-proof walls and other building surfaces. Roofers use materials such as composition shingles, tile, slate and EPDM membrane.

Sheet Metal Worker

A sheet metal worker fabricates and installs a wide variety of construction-related items using flat sheets of metal for residential, commercial and industrial application including heating/ventilation systems, roofing, siding, dust collection, conveyors and other products made from sheet metal.

This above information is provided by the West Michigan Construction Alliance (<http://www.wmconstructionalliance.org>). Further career information on the construction industry can be found at:

Occupational Information Network (ONET): <http://online.onetcenter.org/>

U.S. Department of Labor: <http://www.doleta.gov/business/skillstobuild-factsheet.cfm#content>

Dictionary of Occupational Titles: http://www.occupationalinfo.org/cat_div8_0.html