

CAREER PROFILES

Plumbers:

Plumbers install, repair, and maintain pipes, fixtures, and other plumbing equipment used for water distribution and waste water disposal in residential, commercial, and industrial buildings.

Wage/Salary Information:

\$62,500 is the median annual salary found in local job-postings.

\$29.35/hour is the median wage reported locally.

Commonly Listed Skills in Job Postings:

- Tool use
- Teamwork
- Blueprint reading
- Oral and written communication
- Problem solving
- Interpersonal
- Work independently
- Detail oriented
- Troubleshooting
- Preventative maintenance
- Self-motivated
- Critical thinking
- Computer use

Job Duties:

Plumbers read blueprints, drawings, and specifications to determine layout of plumbing systems, water supply networks, and waste and drainage systems. Plumbers install, repair, and maintain domestic, commercial, or industrial plumbing fixtures and systems and locate and mark positions for pipe connections, passage holes, and fixtures in walls and floors. They cut openings in walls and floors to accommodate pipes and pipe fittings and measure, cut, bend, and thread pipes using hand and power tools or machines. Plumbers also join pipes using couplings, clamps, screws, bolts, cement, or soldering, brazing, or welding equipment, and test pipes for leaks using air and water pressure gauges.

Working Conditions:

Plumbers typically work 40 hours per week. Some plumbers may also work on an on-call basis and respond to plumbing emergencies at all hours. Plumbers who do industrial maintenance at large facilities may do shift work.

The working environment for plumbers can be cramped, dirty and noisy, depending on the job. Plumbers must be physically fit since they are required to carry heavy pipe and stand for much of the day.

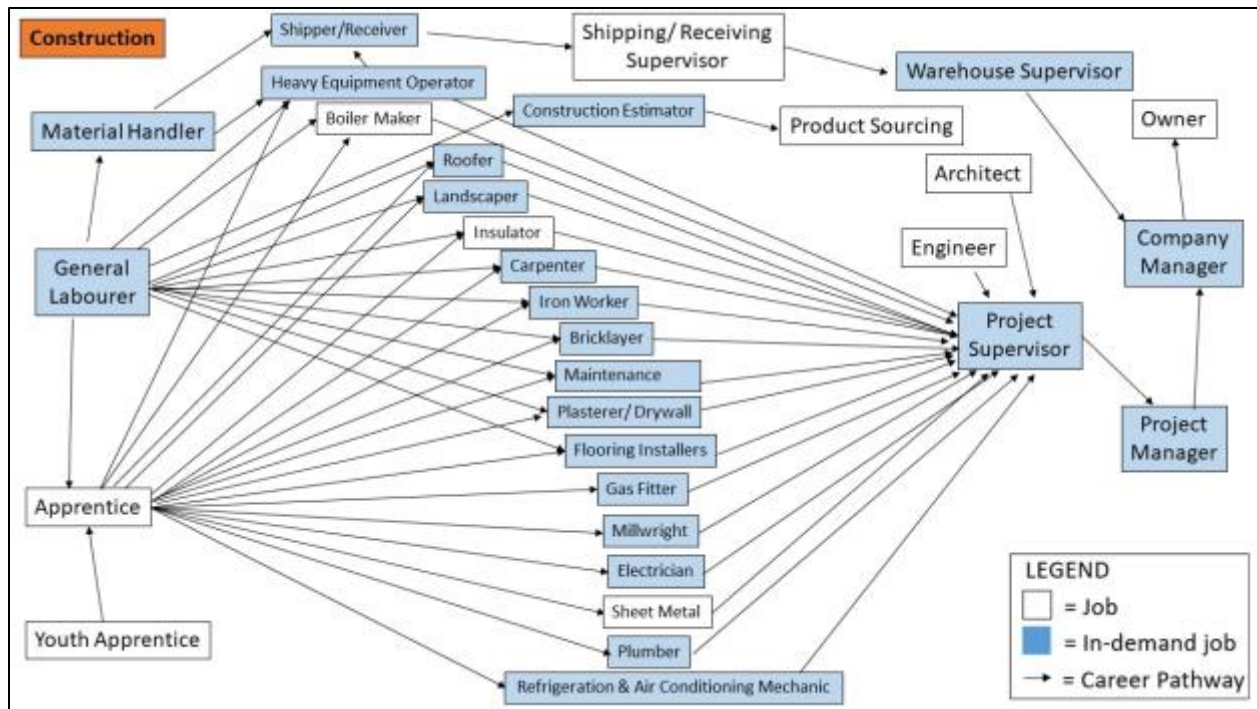
Heavy lifting and working in cramped spaces can lead to muscle and joint pain. Continued use of some tools may lead to repetitive stress injuries, such as tendonitis and bursitis.

Career Pathways:

Most workers begin by working as apprentice plumbers. Upon completion of the apprenticeship program, workers receive their journeymen papers and are then certified plumbers. Those who have completed their apprenticeships typically start out working for a larger plumbing contractor/company. Experience plumbers may be promoted to a supervisory position. More experienced plumbers may choose to work as independent contractors and start their own plumbing companies. With additional education, some plumbers may become certified plumbing inspectors.

Plumbers are employed in maintenance departments of factories, plants, and similar establishments, by plumbing contractors, or they may be self-employed. Below are potential career pathways for plumbers:

- Apprentice Plumber
- Maintenance and Repair Plumber
- Marine Plumber
- Plumber
- Plumbing Installer
- Plumbing Mechanic
- Radiator Plumber
- Residential Construction Plumber



Education and Training Pathways:

If you're interested in becoming a Plumber, you can begin your apprenticeship.

Apprenticeship Details:

Plumber

- Certification: Mandatory (required in order to practice this profession in Ontario)
- Red Seal: Yes
- On-the-job training: 9,000 hours
- In-class training: Three 8-week technical sessions

Individuals interested in pursuing an apprenticeship pathway, should follow these steps:

- 1) Get hired – by an employer/sponsor/union
- 2) Apply online to register as an apprentice at www.ontario.ca/page/start-apprenticeship
- 3) Sign a training agreement with your employer/sponsor and the Employment Ontario apprenticeship office.
- 4) Become a Member of the Ontario College of Trades Apprentices Class at www.collegeoftrades.ca/membership
- 5) Keep a record of the hours you work
- 6) Achieve the competencies listed in your training standard if required in your trade
- 7) Complete all of the training requirements in your trade and you will receive a Certificate of Apprenticeship (CoA).

8) Write the Exam for the Certificate of Qualification if required in your trade

If you are currently in high school and would like to begin an apprenticeship, visit oyap.com for more information about the Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program.

Individuals unsure about whether to pursue an apprenticeship or not, can learn more by visiting www.ontario.ca/page/prepare-apprenticeship.

Disclaimer: *The educational institution reserves the right to change information without notice, and may result in discrepancies between their information and the information presented above. If any errors are found, please report them to info@workforcewindsoressex.com.*