

Top 10 careers by Yr. 11

No.8 Jobs in Construction

The work

There are many different building jobs at a range of levels. Craft jobs include bricklaying, carpentry, painting and decorating, plastering and shopfitting. There are also jobs at technical, supervisory and management levels.

Education and training

Most people get started in construction through employer-based training. Apprenticeships are available; these allow you to gain relevant qualifications whilst training with an employer. There are also full-time construction courses at further education colleges.

Managers and other construction professionals usually hold a foundation degree, HNC/D or degree.

Most construction trades are covered by the Construction Skills Certification Scheme (CSCS) – this proves your competence, and health, safety and environmental awareness.

What it takes

For most practical work in the construction industry you need to:

- be good at working with your hands and using tools
- be able to work as part of a team
- be able to read drawings and measure accurately
- work quickly and carefully
- be prepared to travel to different places to do your job
- learn about building materials
- be fit and healthy
- be safety conscious.

Prospects

Craftspeople can progress to supervisory levels, and with further training, experience and, possibly, qualifications, enter management level positions. There may be more opportunities for promotion in larger companies. Some craftspeople move into teaching construction skills or spend some time working abroad. Many of those working in the construction industry are self-employed, and this is especially common amongst those working in the main craft trades.

Pay

Trained and qualified craftspeople in construction earn around £16-20,000+, but exact pay depends on the trade and other factors such as your location and employer. Basic pay can be increased by overtime payments and bonuses. With experience and responsibility,

income can rise to £30,000 or more. Those who are self-employed set their own rates. Technicians and professionals earn salaries comparable to employees in other industries.

For further information

CITB (The Construction Industry Training Board) - tel: 0344 994 4400. The industry training body and Sector Skills Council for the construction industry. For information on careers in construction, CITB Apprenticeships, training and courses etc, see:
www.citb.co.uk

Go Construct - the CITB careers website has lots of useful information and tools to help you explore different careers in construction. The 'Careers A-Z' includes profiles on the range of building trades.

www.goconstruct.org

JTL - tel: 0800 085 2308. Provides training in electrical and plumbing work etc across England and Wales.

www.jtltraining.com

The National Heritage Training Group - tel: 01246 252363. Supports training in traditional building skills for the heritage sector.

www.the-nhtg.org.uk/training-quals/training-course-provider-search

Women on the Tools (formerly Women and Manual Trades) - tel: 020 7251 9192. A national organisation that campaigns to increase the numbers of tradeswomen.

www.womenonthetools.org.uk

WISE - tel: 0113 222 6072. For information on events and initiatives promoting careers for females in science, technology and engineering etc, see:

www.wisecampaign.org.uk

Jobs are advertised in local and national newspapers (and their websites), through trade associations/professional bodies, at the Jobcentre Plus and through the Universal Jobmatch service:

www.gov.uk/jobsearch

There are also specialist recruitment sites, such as:

www.careersinconstruction.com