



Construction and the Built Environment – Unit 1

1.7 Trades, Employment and Careers

BRICKLAYER:

- Works from plans and specifications to measure work areas.
- Mixes mortar and lays rows of bricks or blocks.
- Shapes and trims bricks or blocks.
- Constructs structures by spreading layers of mortar, placing bricks or blocks, and checking vertical and horizontal alignment using a spirit level.

STONEMASON:

- Dresses blocks of stone and carves stonework.
- Lays traditional stonework, including dry-stone walling.
- Repairs and cleans existing traditional stone mouldings and other features.

PLASTERER:

- Prepares surfaces and levels off uneven areas.
- Mixes plaster, then applies wet finishes to walls and ceilings.
- Creates ornamental features like ceiling roses, cornices and architraves.
- Fixes internal plasterboard or wallboard on stud partitions.
- Replicates traditional plasterwork using plaster, moulds, and casts.

CARPENTER:

- Installs floor joists, floorboards, roof trusses and wall partitions.
- Fits interior woodwork – staircases, doors, skirtings, windows, and kitchens.
- Builds wooden supports or shuttering to hold setting concrete in place.
- Fits interiors in shops, bars, restaurants, offices and public buildings.

JOINER:

- Measures and marks out wood from technical plans.
- Cuts wood on machines or by hand.
- Joins pieces of wood to create structures including staircases, windows, doors and roof trusses in a workshop.

ELECTRICIAN:

- Installs, inspects and tests electrical services and equipment.
- Checks electrical systems to make sure they're working safely.
- Fits electrical wiring, sockets and switches to new-build homes.
- Rewires homes and commercial premises during refurbishment.

PLUMBER:

- Installs cold water, hot water, sanitation (toilets), boilers, and central heating.
- Installs water, drainage and heating systems.
- Cuts, shapes and joins pipes and fittings.
- Finds and fixes faults.
- Services gas and oil-fired central heating systems and radiators.
- Installs and repairs domestic appliances like showers and washing machines.
- Responds to emergency callouts, like boiler breakdowns or blocked drains.

PAINTER AND DECORATOR:

- Prepares and applies paint, hangs wallpaper and other finishes to interior and exterior surfaces.
- Strips off old wallpaper or layers of paint.
- Fills holes and cracks and makes sure that surfaces are level.
- Covers surfaces with primer and undercoat.

FLOOR LAYER:

- Prepares and applies levelling compounds.
- Lays carpets, laminates and vinyl floor finishes to internal floors.

TILER:

- Prepares surfaces by levelling off with plaster, sand or cement.
- Cuts tiles to size and shape with a tile cutter.
- Fixes and grouts tiles in place.