

Career

Carpenter

Carpenters work in all parts of the construction industry. A self-employed carpenter may work on relatively small-scale projects—for example, remodeling rooms or making other



alterations in existing houses or even building new single-family houses. As an employee of a large building con-

tractor, a carpenter may be part of the work force building apartment or office complexes, stores, factories, and other major projects. Some carpenters are employed solely to provide maintenance to a large structure, where they do repairs and upkeep and make any alterations in the structure that are required.

Carpenters with adequate experience and expertise may become specialists in some skill of their own choice, for example, framing, interior finishing, or cabinet making. A carpenter who learns all aspects of the building industry thoroughly may decide to go into business as a general contractor, responsible for all work on an entire project.



Although some carpenters learn the trade through four-year apprenticeships, most learn on the job. These workers begin as laborers or as carpenters' helpers. While they work in these jobs they gradually acquire the skills necessary to become carpenters themselves. Carpenters must be able to measure accurately and to apply their knowledge of arithmetic, geometry, and informal algebra. They also benefit from being able to read and understand plans, blueprints, and charts.

