



Make or  
Fix Things

# Carpenter

## Other names for this job

Framer

## What do carpenters do?

Carpenters build and repair things. They use wood and other **materials**. For example, metal.

### tip

Do you see words in **bold**?  
You can look up these words at  
[alis.alberta.ca/ERdictionary](http://alis.alberta.ca/ERdictionary).

## Meet a carpenter

Matt is a carpenter. He helps build houses. He works on the outside of houses.

Here are things that Matt does:

- He gets **instructions** from his **supervisor**. He reads building plans.
- He measures and marks pieces of wood.
- He cuts wood with saws.
- He uses hammers, nail guns, drills and other tools.
- He checks his work carefully. For example, window and door openings must be the right size.





## What is Matt's work like?

Matt's work is seasonal. Matt works many hours in the spring, summer and fall. He usually works with other carpenters and helpers.

Matt lifts and carries wood and other materials. These things can weigh up to 25 kilograms (about 55 pounds).

Matt uses hand tools and power tools. Some tools are sharp. He has to be careful. He doesn't want to cut himself. He also climbs ladders. He doesn't want to fall. Matt always wears steel-toed boots, safety glasses and a hard hat.

## Do you want to be a carpenter?

- You need to be strong. You have to stand, bend and kneel a lot. You have to lift heavy materials.
- You must be good at working with your hands.
- You must have good balance. For example, Matt often climbs ladders. He works on roofs. He doesn't fall.
- You must be able to do math problems quickly and correctly.
- You need to work well with a team.

## What education do carpenters need?

- Some people start as construction labourers. Then they may become carpenters. They learn about carpentry on the job. They don't need a high school **diploma**.
- Some people take carpentry courses. They may get a **certificate** in carpentry.
- Carpenters can take an **apprenticeship**. They learn on the job and take courses at a **post-secondary school**. After 4 years, they can become a **journeyperson** carpenter.

You can ask your **career advisor** or tutor about working as a carpenter. You can ask about training, too.



## What can carpenters do in the future?

Many carpenters work for construction companies. Carpenters can work on homes, office buildings, schools or other places.

Some carpenters start their own business.

Carpenters with **experience** may become supervisors or **forepersons**.

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### How much does a carpenter make?

A carpenter usually makes between \$16.00 and \$60.31 per hour.



## Other jobs to think about

**Labourers** work on **construction sites**. They move materials and **equipment**. They clean up construction sites.

**Painters** work on the inside and outside of buildings. They put on paint and wallpaper. They use brushes, rollers and spray guns.

**Roofers** repair old roofs. They work on new roofs. They prepare the roof. They put on **shingles** or other roofing material.

## Do you want more information?

You can find the information below at [alis.alberta.ca/occinfo](http://alis.alberta.ca/occinfo). Or you can ask your career advisor or tutor.

- OCCinfo profile: Carpenter
- Videos: Carpenter, Painter and Decorator
- Easy Reading Dictionary

You can also ask your career advisor or tutor about jobs that are like Carpenter.

