

Make or  
Fix Things

# Roofer

## What do roofers do?

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

## Meet a roofer

Leo is a roofer. He works for a roofing company. He works on the roofs of houses and businesses.

Here are things that Leo does:

- He works on flat roofs. He prepares the roofs. Then he puts on hot tar (bitumen).

- He works on **sloped roofs**, too. He prepares the roof. Then he nails shingles in rows. Shingles may be made of different things. For example, tile, wood or asphalt. Asphalt is made of tar and sand.
- He puts on flashing. These metal strips go around chimneys or pipes.
- He sometimes repairs roofs.
- He sometimes calculates (figures out) costs. For example, how much will the shingles and other materials cost? How long will the job take?



### tip

Do you see some words in **bold**?  
 You can look up these words in the  
 Easy Reading Job Profiles Dictionary.

## What is Leo's work like?

Leo works outdoors. Leo works many hours when the weather is good. Some days are very hot.

Leo never works alone. He always works with other roofers.

Leo has to be careful. He doesn't want to fall off a ladder or a roof. He doesn't want to burn himself with hot tar. Sometimes Leo works on high buildings. He wears a safety harness. A safety harness will hold him if he falls.

Leo has to carry ladders and lift shingles. These things can weigh up to 20 kilograms (about 45 pounds).

## Do you want to be a roofer?

- You need to be healthy and strong. You need to be able to work for many hours.
- You must like physical work. You have to bend, climb and kneel a lot.
- You must be able to work in high places.
- You must like to work outdoors in hot or cold weather.

- You must have good balance. You have to move and walk on roofs. You must not fall.
- You need to work well with the other workers.

## What education do roofers need?

- Some roofers learn on the job. They don't need a high school **diploma**.
- Roofers 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** roofer.

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



## What can roofers do in the future?

Roofers can work for small or large roofing companies. Roofers can work on big projects. For example, a large building or a group of houses.

Some roofers with **experience** start their own business.

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### How much does a roofer make?

A roofer usually makes between \$18.00 and \$38.00 per hour.



## Other jobs to think about

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

**Lathers** work inside buildings. They put up metal or wood frameworks. For example, for walls and ceilings. They may cover frames with drywall.

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

## 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: Roofer
- Video: Roofer, Lather-Interior Systems Mechanic, Painter and Decorator
- Easy Reading Job Profiles Dictionary

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

