



Make or
Fix Things

Labourer

Other names for this job

Construction worker

What do labourers do?

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

tip

Do you see words in **bold**?
 You can look up these words at
alis.alberta.ca/ERdictionary.

- He uses power tools. For example, an electric drill.
- He builds things at construction sites. For example, ramps and scaffolding. Construction workers stand on scaffolding when they work in high places. Scaffolding is often made of wood and metal.
- He picks up garbage at the construction site.

Meet a labourer

Brad is a labourer. He works for a construction company. He usually works on large buildings. He also helps to build roads.

Here are things that Brad does:

- He loads and unloads trucks.
- He uses hand tools. For example, shovels and rakes.
- He helps to mix, pour and spread cement.



What is Brad's work like?

Brad usually works an 8-hour **shift**. Sometimes the company is very busy. Then he has to work extra hours. He often doesn't work in the winter.

Brad walks, bends and climbs a lot while he works. He likes working outside. He works outside in good and bad weather. Safety is important on a construction site. Brad has to wear a hard hat, safety glasses, gloves and steel-toed boots.

Brad often has to lift things that weigh over 25 kilograms (over 55 pounds). For example, bags of cement.

Brad is part of a construction team. For example, he works with carpenters, electricians and plumbers. He also works with other labourers.



Do you want to be a labourer?

- You need to be healthy and strong.
- You have to be good at working with your hands.
- You must like to use hand tools and power tools.
- You should like working outside.
- You need to be careful. You have to pay attention to safety.
- You have to be able to work with a team.

What education do labourers need?

- Labourers usually learn on the job. They don't need a high school **diploma**. Employers like workers with **experience**.
- Labourers can get a **certificate**. It is called an Alberta Occupational Certificate. They have to do an **apprenticeship**. They work as an apprentice for 12 months.

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

What can labourers do in the future?

Labourers can work for many kinds of construction companies. Some labourers with experience may become **supervisors** or **forepersons**.



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How much does a labourer make?

A labourer usually makes between \$20.79 and \$30.97 per hour. Some jobs pay new workers more and some pay less.

Other jobs to think about

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

Leasehands are part of a drilling crew (team). Drilling crews drill for oil and gas. Leasehands load and unload trucks. They clean tools. They shovel snow. They put things away.

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. Or you can ask your career advisor or tutor.

- OCCinfo profile: Construction Craft Labourer
- Video: Painter and Decorator
- Easy Reading Dictionary

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

