



Career Pathways: Carpenter



About Carpenters

The job of a carpenter involves working with wood and other materials to construct, install, and repair structures and fixtures. Carpenters read blueprints and technical drawings to understand project specifications, measure and cut materials to precise dimensions, and assemble frameworks for buildings, including walls, floors, and doorframes. They also install fixtures such as windows, doors, and cabinets, and apply finishing touches like sanding, staining, or painting.

Carpenters work on a variety of projects, from residential homes to commercial buildings and industrial structures. Their role often requires collaboration with other tradespeople, ensuring that projects are completed safely and efficiently. The job demands a mix of technical skills, creativity, and physical stamina, offering a dynamic and rewarding career for those interested in hands-on work and construction.



Key Tasks

- Measure and mark materials to ensure proper dimensions and alignment
- Use tools such as saws, chisels, and planes to cut and shape wood and other materials to required specifications
- Interpret construction plans and technical documents to understand project requirements
- Assemble and joining materials to form structures, such as scaffolding, furniture, and bridges
- Work with other tradespeople, such as electricians, plumbers, and masons, to complete construction projects



Key Skills

- Ability to interpret and understand construction plans and technical drawings.
- Proficiency in basic math, geometry, and measurements to ensure accuracy in cutting and fitting materials.
- Skill in using hand tools (e.g., saws, hammers, chisels) and power tools (e.g., drills, circular saws, sanders) safely and effectively.
- Able to stand, bend, lift, and perform repetitive tasks for extended periods.
- Ensure accuracy in measurements, cuts, and installations to avoid costly mistakes.
- Able to adapt to different work environments and project requirements, whether working indoors or outdoors, in residential, commercial, or industrial settings.



Education & Certifications

- **High school diploma or GED**
- **Career and Technical Education:** Many aspiring carpenters attend trade-technical schools or community colleges that offer programs in carpentry or related fields.
- **Apprenticeship Programs:** Apprenticeships are a common and highly recommended pathway for becoming a carpenter. These programs typically last 3-4 years and combine on-the-job training with classroom instruction. Apprentices learn under the supervision of experienced carpenters, gaining practical skills and knowledge in areas such as framing, installation, and finishing.



Industry Sector Employers

- L.R. Costanzo Co., Inc.
- Merritt Construction
- Northeast Regional Council of Carpenters
- Simplex Homes
- Sordoni Construction



Local College/ University Programs

- Johnson College
- Luzerne County Community College
- Pennsylvania College of Technology
- Career Technology Center of Lackawanna County
- Northeast Regional Council of Carpenters



Learn more about Carpenters and other career pathways at [ScrantonChamber.com](https://www.scrantonchamber.com)

**List above shows a sampling of sector employers and college/university programs which is not limited to the list above.*

Sources:
<https://www.onetonline.org/>

