

# Just the Job Information Sheet

## Job title/s

Carpenter

Carpentry Apprentice – working towards a National Certificate in Carpentry.

## Job description

Carpenters work on-site building, repairing and installing structures such as foundations, walls, roofs, windows and doors in large and small buildings.

Carpenters may specialise in residential or commercial carpentry, and they may do some or all of the following:

- study building plans and drawings, and other documents
- make formwork (boxing) for concrete structures
- select timber and other materials
- cut building materials to the right size and shape
- remove and repair damaged or worn parts
- nail, screw or glue the pieces together
- trim and sand the item and apply primer if applicable
- fit the prepared items such as windows, staircases and doors into buildings
- ensure that the prepared items are weather tight.

## Qualifications and age requirements

You need to have a good understanding of maths, reading and writing. Passing NCEA Level 1 or 2 Maths and English usually demonstrates this.

If you don't have passes in those subjects, talk to a BCITO Training Advisor - in some instances, they can organise for you to up-skill in those areas to enable you to get an apprenticeship. Good practical skills are a real plus when it comes to looking for an apprenticeship, and taking technology or woodwork classes while at school demonstrates an interest in the trades which may help when you look for employment.

The minimum age to be employed on a building site is 16. There is no upper age limit, except for people entering the Modern Apprenticeship Scheme - which is for people between the ages of 16 and 21.

## Training costs

The total cost of training varies between qualifications but is usually \$2000 - \$3000. A BCITO Training Advisor can give you a breakdown of costs.

There are no hard and fast rules over whether the apprentice or employer pays for the training. Every situation is different and you should discuss payment of your training with your employer before you sign into a training agreement.

## Location of job

Carpenters work on small and large building sites and may also work in factories or buildings, such as homes or offices that are being altered. Conditions on some sites may be wet, muddy, noisy and

dusty, and carpenters may have to work in cramped spaces. Carpenters may also be required to work at heights.

Every day is different, and holds new and exciting challenges regardless of the location!

### **Career path**

Pre-trade training or apprenticeship

Qualified trades person

Leading Hand

Supervisor

Contract supervisor

Contract Manager/Estimator

Project Manager/Business owner/Quantity Surveyor

**\*\* INSERT Building Career Pathway PDF as link**

### **Salary range**

Wages are negotiated between the apprentice and their employer. The BCITO does not set the wages you are paid as an apprentice or the increases you may get as you progress through your apprenticeship. There is however a minimum wage that an apprentice must be paid and this information can be found by going to the following website [www.ers.dol.govt.nz/pay](http://www.ers.dol.govt.nz/pay).

Annual salary ranges for the following roles in the building and construction industry are provided below (sourced from Hays 2005 Salary Survey):

Leading hand labourers	\$45,000 - \$55,000
Foreperson	\$45,000 - \$65,000
Site Engineer	\$55,000 - \$75,000
Project Engineer	\$60,000 - \$80,000
Estimator	\$60,000 - \$100,000
Project Managers	\$75,000 - \$120,000
Construction managers	\$100,000 - \$140,000

### **Other careers this profession could lead to**

Any of the above as well as owning your own business.

### **How to increase your chances of successfully entering this industry**

It's all about attitude - employers are looking to take on people with a genuine interest and commitment to working in the industry and learning a trade. You need to have a positive attitude and good work ethic to be successful in an apprenticeship.

To begin an apprenticeship you need to be employed in the building industry and your employer has to be prepared to offer you an apprenticeship. You will need to prepare a simple CV and approach prospective employers about starting an apprenticeship. Work experience can help you establish relationships with people in the industry that can lead to an apprenticeship - school programmes (such as Gateway) can also be a good way to get experience.

### **Other places to source information about this job**

Your careers advisor

[www.bcito.org.nz](http://www.bcito.org.nz)

[www.kiwicareers.co.nz](http://www.kiwicareers.co.nz)

## **You might be interested to know**

BCITO apprentices know all about work life balance – after a day on site you will find BCITO apprentices representing their country or region in many sports for example:

- Kayaking
- Rollerblading
- Rugby – both Super 14, NPC and internationals!
- Triathlons
- Martial arts
- And many more

BCITO apprentices come from many different backgrounds. We have currently or recently qualified people who started out doing very different things including;

- Accountants
- Chefs
- Police officers
- Fishermen
- Mothers
- Farmers
- University lecturers

There are BCITO apprentices working on almost every major construction project in New Zealand including;

- Wellington Hospital
- Auckland War Memorial Museum
- Inner city bypass – Wellington
- The construction of Corrections Facilities