

# Just the Job Information Sheet

## Job title

Builder/Carpenter

## Job description

Carpenters are skilled tradespeople who use timber and other materials to construct houses and buildings. They often progress to be in charge of a building site and manage projects from breaking ground to handing the keys to the new owner. Builders now need to be licensed in New Zealand, which means the career is more professional than ever. Many are business owners and employ other carpenters and train apprentices.

New Zealand is in the midst of another building boom in Auckland and Canterbury.

If you always wanted to be a builder, an apprenticeship in carpentry through the BCITO will put you on the right path.

BCITO qualified professional builders:

- Read plans and build to an architect's instructions.
- Understand and follow building codes and regulations.
- Build with materials such as timber, concrete and steel.
- Lay foundations, build framing, install cladding and roofing.
- Install interior linings and flooring.
- Understand the roles of other trades and manage trades working together.
- Understand project management and construction.
- Understand the importance of health and safety procedures and protocols.
- Talk to clients and manage relationships with other tradespeople.
- Accurately estimate quantities and order materials.
- Keep up to date with new products, techniques and design trends.
- Undertake higher-level and university study to get business and project management skills.

Those who are self-employed also need skills in running a small business.

## Qualifications required

New Zealand Certificate in Carpentry (Level 4)

## General requirements

To become a carpenter, you can complete an apprenticeship through the BCITO. You can do this direct from school, but you first need to get a job with an employer who is willing to train you and support you through an apprenticeship. The BCITO can then arrange your training. In some cases, we may be able to help you find a job – especially if you have some experience or did Gateway at school. Visit [www.bcito.org.nz/lookingforwork](http://www.bcito.org.nz/lookingforwork) to register for our job matching service.

If you think you've got what it takes, a career in carpentry could be for you. There are no entry requirements for a carpentry apprenticeship, but it helps to have NCEA Level 2 in English and maths.

### **Training costs**

Through the BCITO it costs \$1,470 to sign into your apprenticeship and then \$705 for each year of training after that. However, a \$100 discount applies if invoices are paid by the due date. Note that training costs are subject to change.

### **Career path**

A career in carpentry can be as exciting, varied and rewarding as you choose to make it – the sky is the limit!

The career options for a qualified carpenter range from employee to business owner, from site foreperson to construction company owner. You can be your own boss or have the security of working for someone else, you can work alone or be part of a team.

Hard work, perseverance and attention to detail are needed to succeed in the construction industry. Just like when you're building a house, you need good planning, solid foundations, a well built framework and supports to get you through the ups and downs. You have the potential to build a great life for yourself and find a home within our industry.

### **Salary range**

This will depend on geographic location and experience. In some areas of high demand, business owners and foremen earn well in excess of \$100,000 per year.

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

As a carpentry apprentice, you'll need to:

1. Travel to various job sites.
2. Work outside or inside depending on the job.
3. Work on large long-term projects or small repair jobs.
4. Get your hands dirty!
5. Be hungry to learn and succeed.
6. Be fit and healthy – the job can involve lifting and bending.
7. Work hard, stay motivated and start early – start setting your alarm now!
8. Use and maintain tools – your tool box is your livelihood.
9. Be accurate, with an eye for detail – near enough isn't good enough.
10. Work to deadlines and be reliable and punctual – building sites don't wait.
11. Work on your own and as part of a team – bosses need to be able to trust you to get a job done and not to rock the boat with your workmates.
12. Working at heights and in confined spaces.

13. Listen and communicate well.

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

[BCITO.org.nz](http://BCITO.org.nz)

[GetReal.co.nz](http://GetReal.co.nz)

[Facebook.com/BCITO.org.nz](https://www.facebook.com/BCITO.org.nz)

[YouTube.com/theBCITO](https://www.youtube.com/theBCITO)