

Just the Job

Information Sheet

Job title/s

Glazier
Glass Processor

Job description

Glazier

A Glazier can be part of a team installing new glass into commercial buildings, such as shop fronts, stair balustrading, glass awnings, glass bricks, etc. A head for heights is important for high-rise glazing! There is a large variety of jobs in this area, as well as in residential glazing. In small companies, the glazier also cuts the glass required for his job, and also loads the glass onto the glass van. Glaziers also repair, or *re-glaze* windows or shop fronts. A glazier spends more time out on site, than in the workshop.

Glass Processor

A glass processor works mainly in a glass processing workshop. Most glass processing companies in New Zealand are very large organisations, and have staff for 24hour rotating shifts. A glass processor learns to run large expensive machines which can automatically cut large sheets of glass. Most machines are CNC machines (computer numeric control) and are used to strengthen glass, laminate glass, and produce double glazed glass units. Glass processors also cut glass manually, bevel glass, slump glass and drill glass. Glass is mostly moved by overhead gantries which are operated by the glass processor.

Qualifications required

It is important to have good literacy and maths skills (to understand job sheets and specifications, and to measure correctly) Health and Safety is very important in this industry. Workplace communication is vital, so students should understand what this means in its fullest sense.

A willingness to learn and to work well in a team environment is also important.

The Gateway programme can provide valuable workplace experience and the opportunity to find out more about a career in glazing or glass processing.

Training costs

When a student becomes an apprentice, the costs are:

Administration Fee \$168.75 (paid once at start of apprenticeship)

Credit fees \$2 per credit (depending on the qualification between 140 and 170 credits)

Off Job training (block courses) \$450 each.

* Glazing three 3-week courses over three years.

* Processing two 3-week courses over two years

Location of job

Please see the Job Descriptions above

Career path**Glazing**

Starts by working under the guidance of a qualified tradesman – learns to cut glass safely, goes out on jobs assisting tradesman. Becomes part of an installation team, and learns how to install small panes to large strengthened glass units. When qualified, can become a team leader, or factory supervisor or manager.

Glass Processor

Gains experience on a variety of specialist machines; can become a workplace mentor; when qualified, can become a team leader, or factory supervisor, or own his or her own business.

Both

There are many opportunities to become involved in:

Glass installation pricing

Glass Project management

Specialist glass fittings

Branch manager

Self employment

Salary range

Apprentice rates can start from \$8 - \$10 per hour. As the apprentice 'serves' his or her time, the rate increases.

Qualified tradesmen or women earn between \$14 - \$25 (depending on region, and their field of expertise)

Other careers this profession could lead to

Project work

Specialist advisor in glass materials and applications

Design of glass fitment and fixings

Contract Manager

How to increase the chances of successfully entering this industry

The Gateway programme can introduce the student to the industry, and vice versa – the programme gives the Glass manager to opportunity to observe the attributes of a young person finding out about the industry through work experience.

Other places to source information about this job

* The Joinery ITO website www.jito.org.nz

* career advisors

* kiwicareers

* modern apprentice coordinators

Other points

The glass processing and glazing industry is growing very quickly and is in need of bright, forward thinking, hard working young men and women. There are wonderful opportunities to build well-paying and satisfying careers in this industry.

Recent legislation concerning insulation and heat retention efficiency in new homes and buildings has meant that the glass industry needs to increase the production of specialist glass, such as double glazing, acoustic glass, self cleaning glass.

The architectural opportunities in glass and glazing are constantly growing.