



| NSW Department of Education

Carpenter and Joiner

Carpenters and joiners love working their hands to construct, erect, install, and repair structures made of wood. You'll get great satisfaction out of seeing your finished work enliven a home or building.

What carpenters and joiners do

Carpenters and joiners use their broad knowledge of building methods and timbers to make, install, repair or renovate structures, fixtures and fittings. They work on residential and commercial projects constructing buildings, ships, bridges or concrete formwork, and in maintenance roles in factories, hospitals, institutions, and homes.

On residential jobs, carpenters and joiners build the house framework, walls, roof frame, and exterior finish. They install doors, windows, flooring, cabinets, stairs, handrails, panelling, moulding, and ceiling tiles. On commercial construction jobs, they build concrete forms, scaffolding, bridges, trestles, tunnels, shelters, towers or repair and maintain existing structures.

Shop fitter, joiners, fixers or finish carpenters create wood furniture, window and door fittings, parquet floors and stairs for new homes and renovation projects. They may also create and sell their own furniture. Joiners are mostly based in workshops while carpenters often travel between sites until each job is completed.

Carpenters may work as subcontractors employed by building and construction companies or are self-employed.

Will I get a job?

Moderate growth in this occupation is predicted, with 200 new jobs in Australia in the next four years, bringing the total to 117,800.

What will I earn?

\$951–\$1,100 median full-time weekly salary (before tax, excluding super).

You'll like this job if...

You enjoy creating things with your hands. You can work independently. You're a problem solver. You're creative. You can read plans and follow instructions. You value accuracy. You have good eye-hand coordination. You're physically fit. You like to focus on the facts and details. You can lift heavy items.

A day in the life...

Work as a carpenter and joiner may involve these tasks:

- study drawings and specifications to determine materials required, dimensions and installation procedures
- order and select timbers and materials
- prepare layouts
- cut materials and assemble and nail cut and shaped parts
- erect framework and roof framing
- lay sub-flooring and floorboards
- verify trueness of structures
- nail fascia panels, sheath roofs and fit exterior wall cladding and frames
- assemble prepared wood to form structures and fittings ready to install
- cut wood joints
- construct concrete formwork
- may repair existing fittings
- may work with plastic laminates, perspex and metals.

VET qualifications

The following government-subsidised qualifications are available in NSW:

Certificate III in Carpentry and Joinery (CPC32011)

- Up to 4 years full-time
- Available as a fee-free apprenticeship
- Graduates employed or in further study: 95.8%*

Certificate III in Carpentry (CPC30211)

- Up to 4 years full-time
- Available as a fee-free apprenticeship
- Graduates employed or in further study: 96.4%*

Certificate III in Formwork/Falsework (CPC31511)

- Up to 3 years full-time
- Available as a fee-free apprenticeship
- Graduates employed or in further study: 95.8%*

Certificate III in Joinery (CPC31912)

- Up to 4 years full-time
- Available as a fee-free apprenticeship
- Graduates employed or in further study: 95.8%*

Roles to look for

- Carpenter and joiner
- Carpenter
- Joiner

Main employing industries

- Construction

Other jobs you may like...

- Bricklayer and stonemason
- Cabinet maker
- Glazier
- Plasterer
- Plumber
- Roof tiler
- Wall and floor tiler
- Wood machinist
- Wood trades worker

Certificate III in Joinery (Stairs) (CPC32211)

- Up to 3 years full-time
- Available as a fee-free apprenticeship
- Graduates employed or in further study: 95.8%*

Certificate III in Shopfitting (CPC30116)

- Up to 4 years full-time
- Available as a fee-free apprenticeship
- Graduates employed or in further study: 95.8%*

Certificate III in Timber Truss and Frame Design and Manufacture (FWP30916)

- Up to 2 years full-time
- Available as a traineeship
- Graduates employed or in further study: 95.8%*

Certificate IV in Timber Truss and Frame Manufacture (FWP40316)

- Up to 3 years full-time
- Available as a traineeship
- Graduates employed or in further study: 94.9%*

Certificate IV in Timber Truss and Frame Design (FWP40416)

- Up to 3 years full-time
- Available as a traineeship
- Graduates employed or in further study: 94.9%*



To find out more regarding these related jobs, visit education.nsw.gov.au/job-guides.

Information sources

Income: Australian Government Department of Employment, Australian Jobs Report 2017, Occupation Matrix. ANZSCO ID: 2211. Earnings can vary greatly depending on the skills and experience of the worker, and the demands of the role. Career trend: Australian Government Department of Employment 2017 employment projections to May 2022. Graduate outcomes: National Centre for Vocational Education Research. *Approximately 6 months after they completed VET.

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