



| NSW Department of Education

Plasterer

Plasterers apply and fix plasterboard partitions, suspended ceilings, fire rating systems, acoustic tiles, and composite wall linings to buildings, and apply decorative and protective coverings of plaster, cement and similar materials to the interiors and exteriors of structures.

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Job title examples

- Fibrous Plasterer
- Solid Plasterer
- Cement Renderer

What plasterers do

- determine plasterboard layout, and install insulation and vapour barriers
- measure, mark and cut plasterboard, lift and position panels, and secure them to walls, ceilings and battens
- prepare corner beads and secure them in position
- fix pre-cast cornices, panel mouldings, ceiling centres and other plaster fittings
- cover joints and nail holes with wet plaster and seal compounds, and smooth them using wet brushes and sand paper
- mix and apply coats of plaster, cement and render to structures using trowels, and level and smooth coats to uniform thickness
- plumb and straighten corners, angles and wall and ceiling surfaces
- create decorative textures in finishing coats
- apply and finish acoustic, insulate and fireproof materials bonded with plaster, plastic cement and similar materials

Main employing industries

- Construction

Qualifications

The following government subsidised qualifications are available in NSW:

Certificate III in Solid Plastering available as an apprenticeship or qualification.

Certificate III in Wall and Ceiling Lining available as an apprenticeship or qualification.

Course fees: You may be eligible for government subsidised training under Smart and Skilled. Go to the [Course Finder](#) to find training in your area, estimate your fee and find a training provider.

Job prospects and pay

- There are around 10,685 plasterers working in NSW.
- Over the next four years, employment in this occupation is expected to decline in NSW.
- Employers report shortages of solid plasterers and fibrous plasterers across NSW, including in commercial and industrial construction, and residential building and renovation (including heritage buildings).

Average weekly full-time earnings (before tax):

- Plasterers: \$1,152
- All occupations: \$1,200

Related jobs

- Glazier
- Roof tiler
- Wall and floor tiler



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

Information sources

Occupations: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations, 1220.0

Employment: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Labour Force, Australia, Detailed, Quarterly, 6291.0.55.003

Skills shortages: Department of Employment, Skill Shortage List NSW 2015-16

Job prospects: Centre of Policy Studies (CoPS), Victoria University, Employment Forecast Data for NSW 2015/16 to 2022/23

Earnings: Department of Employment, joboutlook.gov.au, based on ABS Characteristics of Employment Survey, August 2014