



# JOB of the Week



**Job name: Plumber**

## Job description:

Plumbers work in domestic and industrial situations (homes and factories / warehouses and building sites) Plumbers Install, maintain, and repair pipes and fixtures associated with heating, cooling, water distribution, and sanitation systems in residential and commercial structures.

Plumbers will also fix domestic appliances, such as dishwashers and gas cookers. Inspect drainage and other plumbing systems for compliance with local and national regulations.

## Tasks you will undertake in the job: As a plumber, you'll:

- Interpret blueprints and building specifications to map layout for pipes, drainage systems, and other plumbing materials
- Install pipes and fixtures, such as sinks and toilets, for water, gas, steam, air, or other liquids
- Install supports for pipes, equipment, and fixtures prior to installation
- Assemble fittings and valves for installation
- Modify length of pipes, fixtures, and other plumbing materials as needed for a building
- Use saws and pipe cutters as necessary
- Install heating and air-conditioning systems, including water heaters
- Collaborate with contractors, construction workers, electricians, pipefitters, and steamfitters in installing and repairing plumbing
- Test plumbing systems for leaks and other problems
- Analyse problem and identifies appropriate tools and materials for repair
- Choose plumbing materials based on budget, location, and intended uses of building
- Follow health and safety standards and complies with building codes
- Write reports documenting the problem and summary of actions taken
- Perform inspections of plumbing systems to identify and replace worn parts
- Prepare bids and schedules and oversees other workers, such as apprentices and helpers

## Skills required for this job (core competencies):

Communication	Resilience	Organisation	Teamwork
Problem Solving	Initiative	Creativity	Digital literacy

**Sectors in which Plumbers would normally work:** Plumbers, pipefitters, and steamfitters work in factories, homes, businesses, and other places where there are pipes and related systems. Plumbers and fitters lift heavy materials, climb ladders, and work in tight spaces. Some plumbers travel to worksites every day.

**Salary:** Plumbers are typically paid a starting wage of £16 000, this increases with experience, skilled Plumbers can expect to earn approximately £40 000 per year



**Working hours:** Working hours are usually around 37 - 40 hours per week. You may need to work some evenings and weekends.

**Qualifications to become a Plumber:** You can get into this job through a college course; an apprenticeship; working towards this role and applying directly:

**College:** You could do a Level 2 and 3 Diploma in Plumbing and Domestic Heating. This would teach you some of the skills needed for the job and will help you when applying for a trainee position with a plumbing company.

**Entry requirements -** You'll usually need: 2 or more GCSEs at grades 9 to 3 (A\* to D), or equivalent, for a level 2 course  
4 or 5 GCSEs at grades 9 to 4 (A\* to C), or equivalent, for a level 3 course

**Apprenticeship.** You can do an intermediate and advanced apprenticeship in plumbing and domestic heating. This can take up to 4 years. **Entry requirements -** some GCSEs, usually including English and maths, or equivalent, for an intermediate apprenticeship. 5 GCSEs at grades 9 to 4 (A\* to C), or equivalent, including English and maths, for an advanced apprenticeship

You could start as a plumber's assistant or 'mate' and do training on the job to qualify. You could apply directly for jobs if you've got qualifications and several years' experience from related industries, like building services or heating and ventilation engineering.

**Essential skills you need to show:** You'll need to have:

- the ability to use, repair and maintain machines and tools
- knowledge of building and construction
- to be thorough and pay attention to detail
- knowledge of maths
- the ability to work well with others
- the ability to use your initiative
- the ability to work well with your hands
- customer service skills
- to be able to carry out basic tasks on a computer or hand-held device

**This job in the future:** The workforce is projected to decline by -2%, losing 3 400 jobs; in the same period, 50.4% of the workforce is likely to retire, creating 85 600 job opportunities.

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[www.successatschool.org](http://www.successatschool.org)

[www.nationalcareers.service.gov.uk](http://www.nationalcareers.service.gov.uk)

[www.prospects.ac.uk/jobs-and-work-experience/job-sectors](http://www.prospects.ac.uk/jobs-and-work-experience/job-sectors)

[www.ucas.com/careers-advice](http://www.ucas.com/careers-advice)

[www.kudos/casaid.co.uk/#/](http://www.kudos/casaid.co.uk/#/) (you all have a log on for this service)

[www.careersbox.co.uk](http://www.careersbox.co.uk) (careers videos)

Helpful sites for careers information  
GAT careers links

<http://airhead.io/public/launchpads/XqbuOMJgb00fqvMPCykcZA>

