

What does it take to become a **WELDER**?

A welder is a tradesperson who specialises in fabricating and fusing metals together. The term welder refers to the operator, whereas the machine is referred to as the welding power supply. Welders work on metal components of a various of building or construction industries. The main types of welding are Shielded Metal Arc Welding (SMAW) as one of the easiest and most common types of welding, Metal Inert Gas Welding and Tungsten Inert Gas Welding. Boilermakers are specialist welders with expertise in welding pressurised vessels, industrial boilers and power plant heat exchangers.

Skills & Knowledge

High school courses in mathematics, mechanical drawing, and general vocational technical training are considered useful. Welders typically have to have good dexterity and attention to detail, as well as technical knowledge about the materials being joined and best practices in the field. They use many tools and need hand-eye coordination to avoid injury or damaging materials. Welders frequently use basic math skills to calculate area, precisely cut material, and determine the amount of material needed to complete the job. They use heavy tools and materials and as such need to possess physical endurance; frequently standing, climbing, or bending for many hours. Welders need to think on their feet as they often have to modify material and make adjustments on-site to complete projects.



Training

Training is offered at registered training institutions and covers an intensive focus on safety and precautionary measures, as welding, without the proper precautions appropriate for the process, can be a dangerous and unhealthy practice. Many

welders typically learn the trade on the job and through apprenticeships, doing simpler tasks under the guidance of experienced welders who oversee how they learn the proper use of tools and equipment. Many welders need a driver's license or reliable transportation, since their work is done on jobsites.



Working Conditions

Most welders work full time, which may include working evenings and weekends. Adhering to safety and ventilation considerations, including prescribed safety gear is of utmost importance, because many common welding procedures involve an open electric arc or flame and the risk of burns and smoke inhalation is significant. Bending, stooping, and heavy lifting are common.

Job Prospects

The starting pay for apprentices is less than what fully trained welders and seasoned boilermakers make. As apprentices gain experience, they receive more pay. Welders with the highest skill levels and a willingness to relocate have the greatest advantage for solid employment. Many welders work as independent contractors, with some often subcontracting work from bigger construction companies. The mining and fisheries sectors are other major employers of welders.

You too can live your passion and qualify as a Welder. If you are detail-oriented, physically fit and strong and possess strong problem solving skills, you are a good candidate.

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