



LIVE YOUR PASSION

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



Anyone who has faced a busted pipe or broken toilet will tell you that plumbers are heroes. Plumbers install and repair water supply lines, waste disposal systems, and related appliances and fixtures to keep homes and businesses flowing smoothly. Plumbers can be involved in hands-on work or may work in a design capacity, drafting blueprints and helping make the installation process more efficient. Testing pipes for leakage using air pressure and other gauges, and also the ability to construct new pipe systems by cutting, fitting, measuring and threading pipes are some of the other more involved aspects of plumbing. Plumbers often work right alongside architects as they can contribute valuable knowledge about the best positions for wall passage and fixture locations, saving the architect valuable time and avoiding expensive mistakes.

Skills and Knowledge

Plumbing is a challenging career, best suited to people who are motivated, hardworking and patient. Good customer service skills and an outgoing personality are also important assets for a residential professional that needs the trust and return business of his or her clients. Odd and long hours, weekends, and holidays spent working are almost a given in many if not most plumbing jobs. Mathematical and spatial aptitude is also a valuable asset for someone considering this as a possible

career.

Training

Completing a plumbing course at a technical training centre, followed by an apprenticeship is probably the most common route to becoming a licensed plumbing professional. The length of time it takes to begin a new career in plumbing is difficult to define because every case is different, but a career arc of four to six years from beginning training to working as full-fledged plumber would be typical. However, this occupation tends to be one where the learning doesn't really ever end, and experienced plumbers that have been in the field for twenty years will learn new methods and aspects of the trade, as the need arises.

Working Conditions

Being a plumber is physically demanding. Strength, stamina, and an ability to work in a variety of environments are all assets you'll need before you decide to pick up a pipe wrench. Things can get dirty, as you might spend a cold morning wedged in a frigid crawl space fixing a broken drainage line. It all needs to get done, and there is some serious compensation available for those who are willing and able to do it. Simply put, anywhere that has or needs to have running water is an opportunity for potential customers. Even motor vehicles such as buses, recreational

vehicles, large airplanes, yachts, and cruise ships all need the installation of plumbing and will need repair work from time to time.

Job Prospects

Unless it's for scheduled maintenance or installation, people who need plumbers usually need them right away. The good news is that urgency makes for excellent job security. The bad news is you might work late hours and be on call for nights and weekends. A typical day might include fielding midnight phone calls from a frantic homeowner with a broken pipe, or working for an architectural firm or on a construction site. Many experienced plumbers choose to go into business for themselves; while others become contractors. Related options with less potential for late hours, include pipelaying, pipefitting, sprinklerfitting and steamfitting. These jobs require similar skills, but frequently offer more regularly scheduled hours.

You too can live your passion and become a Plumber. If you are a team player and have strong mathematical aptitude, you are a good candidate.



Technical skills put you in a position where you don't have to wait on handouts from government. You can employ yourself.

