

What does it take to become a **CONCRETE SHUTTERER?**

A concrete shutterer's job description includes fabricating and setting up the forms in which concrete is poured to create walkways, walls, pillars and other structures. Work alongside construction workers by erecting and setting forms for concrete structures, they build wooden moulds and clamp them using appropriate hand tools in fabricating concrete beams, columns and panels. They also introduce rebar or wire mesh to reinforce the material, use trowels and other tools to spread and smooth concrete, and mold expansion joints and edges. They interpret blueprints and read survey stakes with a view to establish appropriate grades, prepare worksites for concrete footings and assemble concrete forms on specified locations.



Skills & Knowledge

High school courses in mathematics and woodwork provide a strong foundation for a Concrete Shutterer's career. You will need to be skilled in areas such as reading and interpreting blueprints; and work well without direct supervision. Concrete shutterers are good problem solvers, diligent, attentive and safety conscious. This work is tough

and hardy and requires physical dexterity and endurance; you can only perform it well if you are physically strong. Experience and skills in using tools and equipment specific to the trade such as hand and power saws, hammers, edging tools, jointers, and straightedges are also required.

Training

Training is offered at registered institutions, covering areas such as bricklaying, concrete pouring and finishing and carpentry. Generally, for most concrete shutterers, training comes on the job as apprentices. They learn by observing and helping experienced professionals. As they gain more experience, workers not only perform their tasks more quickly, but can do more complex jobs, such as inserting spreaders and tie rods between opposite faces of forms; anchoring and bracing forms to fixed objects; and setting and aligning forms to desired pitches and depth.

Working Conditions

This work is physically strenuous. It involves frequent kneeling and bending, and the lifting of heavy materials. Concrete shutterers thus require physical strength as well as stamina. As with any construction job, they can suffer injuries caused by falls from scaffolding, cuts from tools, bumps from construction equipment or burns from chemical substances. They can minimize hazards by wearing protective clothing such as kneepads and practicing standard safety procedures.

Job Prospects

Most concrete shutterers work for construction companies. Most work full time, and some work nights and weekends to accommodate construction schedules. Some concrete shutterers opt to work as self-employed service providers and subcontractors to bigger construction, civil engineering and mining companies.

You too can live your passion and qualify as a Concrete Shutterer. If you are physically fit and strong and possess excellent peripheral and depth perception abilities, you are a good candidate.

This insert is brought to you by the Namibia Training Authority under its 'Live Your Passion' advocacy campaign. To learn more about other technical and vocational career options, visit our website: www.nta.com.na

'Live Your Passion' is supported by the European Union.



Scan here
to watch the
industry feature