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# Education Today / Career Tomorrow

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## Carpentry

From bridges to mansions, carpenters build it all.

There are many different careers in the carpentry field. Employers range from small home builders and remodeling companies to large construction firms.

A carpenter working for a smaller business would need to know all aspects of building a house. This includes tasks such as framing walls, putting in doors, building stairs, and installing cabinets. These carpenters are able to transition from residential building to commercial

construction because of their level of training.

Large construction companies usually require more specialized carpenters. These workers concentrate on mastering a small number of tasks, such as constructing walls or erecting scaffolding.

Outside the construction industry, carpenters perform a variety of maintenance work. Workers make repairs to anything from ceiling tiles to desks.

Although each carpentry job is different, most involve the same fundamental skills. Working from blueprints, dealing with building materials, and understanding building codes are a few of the basic tasks a carpenter faces on the job. Using tools, such as chisels, planes, saws, drills, and sanders, as well as levels and adhesives, is also a necessary skill.

Source:  
The Occupational Outlook Handbook

## Job Outlook

Throughout the country, carpenters are employed in almost every community and make up the largest building trades occupation. Future job opportunities for carpenters are expected to be excellent, particularly for those with the highest level of skill. The need for carpenters is expected to grow as construction activity increases in response to demand for new housing, office and retail space, and for modernizing and expanding schools and industrial plants.

## Money Matters

**Career:** Carpenter

**Job description:** Inspects, repairs, installs, modifies, rebuilds, constructs, and maintains woodwork and other related structures. Has knowledge of commonly-used concepts, practices, and procedures within a particular field. Relies on instructions and pre-established guidelines to perform the functions of the job. Works under immediate supervision.

**Salary:** \$24,750-54,715 annually

For more information on how to start your career in carpentry, please contact: Career Counselor Vickie Miller (941) 751-7900 ext. 2016  
millerv@manateeschools.net

## Education Needed

Some skills needed to become a carpenter include manual dexterity, eye-hand coordination, physical fitness, and a good sense of balance. The ability to solve arithmetic problems quickly and accurately is also important.

Carpenters learn their trade through both formal and informal training programs. To become a skilled carpenter usually takes between 3 and 4 years of both classroom and on-the-job training. The more formalized the process, the more skilled a carpenter becomes, which ultimately means the carpenter will be more in demand by employers.

In a high school, classes in English, algebra, geometry, physics, mechanical drawing, blueprint reading, and general shop are recommended.

After high school, a carpenter may obtain a job with a contractor who will provide on-the-job training. During this time, the carpenter may attend a community college or vocational school to receive further trade-related training.

Some employers also offer employees formal apprenticeships. These programs combine on-the-job training with related classroom instruction.

There are numerous public and private technical schools and training academies that offer training to become a carpenter. These students start at a higher pay level than those without the training.



## It's a Matter of Perspective



**Teacher**—“Like any other market, the construction industry is subject to economic peaks and valleys. Currently, new home construction is significantly down. However, remodels and additions are on the up-swing. As long as the basic human need for shelter prevails, the need for carpenters will flourish.” —Dan Olin, Carpentry Instructor

**Student**—“I am the president of the Occupational Health and Safety Committee and I hold the gold medal for SkillsUSA. I have been a carpentry student for a little over a year now. I love it! I believe carpentry will be a great career. I encourage anyone thinking about the construction industry to consider carpentry. From building houses to understanding building codes, I am learning so much.” —Brian Anderson, Carpentry Student

Teacher

Student

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