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Education Today / Career Tomorrow

BROUGHT TO YOU BY MANATEE TECHNICAL INSTITUTE AND NEWSPAPERS IN EDUCATION



Plumbing

Plumbers make house calls to unclog a drain or install an appliance, but a plumber's career involves much more.

Plumbers also install, maintain, and repair many different types of pipe systems. For example, some systems move water to a municipal water treatment plant and then to residential, commercial, and public buildings. Other systems dispose of waste, provide gas to stoves and furnaces, or provide for heating and cooling needs.

Plumbers install and repair the water, waste disposal, drainage, and gas systems in homes and commercial and industrial buildings. Plumbers also install plumbing fixtures—bathtubs, showers, sinks, and toilets—and appliances such as dishwashers and water heaters.

Plumbers use many different materials and construction techniques, depending on the type of project. Residential water systems incorporate copper, steel, and plastic pipe that can be installed by one or

two plumbers. Municipal sewerage systems are made of large cast-iron pipes.

Despite these differences, all plumbers must be able to follow building plans or blueprints and instructions from supervisors, lay out the job, and work efficiently with the materials and tools of their trade.

Source: The Occupational Handbook

Job Outlook

Job opportunities are expected to be excellent, as the demand for skilled plumbers is expected to outpace the supply of workers trained in this craft.

In addition, many people currently working in these trades are expected to retire over the next ten years, which will create additional job openings. Demand for plumbers will stem from new construction and building renovation.

Employment of plumbers is expected to grow through the year 2014.

Money Matters

Career: Plumbing

Job Description: Inspects, repairs, installs, modifies, and maintains plumbing fixtures in heating, water and drainage systems. Identifies electrical, plumbing and safety problems applicable to the installation and takes necessary corrective action. Performs necessary clerical duties with job and is able to read blue prints.

Salary: \$24,700 to \$57,700 annually

For more information on how to start your career in Plumbing, please contact:

Career Counselor Jeannell Copeland
 (941) 751-7900 ext. 2017
 copelanj@manateeschools.net

Education Needed

Plumbers enter into the profession in a variety of ways. Most residential and industrial plumbers get their training in career and technical schools and community colleges and from on-the-job training.

Apprenticeship programs also provide comprehensive training for these jobs. Apprenticeships consist of 4 or 5 years of on-the-job training, in addition to at least 144 hours per year of related classroom instruction.

Students pursuing a career in plumbing should take classes including drafting and blueprint reading, courses in shop, mathematics, applied physics and chemistry, safety, and local plumbing codes and regulations.

Although there are no uniform national licensing requirements, most communities require plumbers to be licensed. Licensing requirements vary from area to area, but most localities require workers to pass an examination that tests their knowledge of the trade and of local plumbing codes.



"Here at MTI, we are focusing on practical, hands-on work. Technology and materials are always changing, so we are covering the latest products. Employers are looking for honest, dependable people and for employees that come in ready to work and learn. Employers are searching for Service Plumbers, so our next step is to create a program to specifically train Service Plumbers for the field."
 John Kenney

"I am currently a student enrolled in Manatee Technical Institute's Plumbing program. After graduation, I want to open my own plumbing service. There are a lot of mobile homes with elderly citizens in this area and I want to help in Sarasota and Bradenton. Right now, I am learning how to install hot water tanks. I believe that the MTI Plumbing program will give me the opportunity to learn the skills necessary for my business."
 Jonas Antoine

Teacher • Student

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