



Plumber



Plumbing apprenticeships

What does a plumber do?

Plumbers plan, select, install, service, commission and maintain all aspects of plumbing and heating systems. This includes toilets, baths, showers, sinks, washing machines and dishwashers.

They can also install central heating systems, but would require additional qualifications.

You could work at a client's home or at a client's business. Your working environment may be cramped, at height and outdoors some of the time.



Which apprenticeships are there as a plumber?

- Advanced: Plumbing and Domestic Heating Technician (level 3)



What could your typical daily tasks include?

- Installing bathrooms, cutting, shaping and joining pipes and fittings
- Installing white goods (such as washing machines or dishwashers)
- Testing and repairing pipes, identifying leaks
- Constructing new pipes
- Using machinery such as hand tools, power tools and welding tools
- Responding to emergency call-outs



How long will the apprenticeship take to complete?

A typical apprenticeship will take approximately 4 years to complete.



How much could you earn?

As a qualified plumber, you can earn on average between £15,000 - £40,000 a year depending on your experience and location.

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Useful skills you will develop as a plumber

- Attention to detail
- Mechanical skills
- Knowledge of building and construction
- Communication and time management
- Mathematical skills to take measurements
- Practical skills to work with handheld tools

Qualifications you might need

- Entry requirements will be determined by individual employers. Some employers may require certain GCSEs, but the majority of employers will be looking for someone with a willingness to learn and a genuine interest in plumbing.
- If you have completed a level 1 or 2 qualification in construction or multi-trades, this can help to demonstrate basic skills to the employer.

Qualifications you will gain

- The apprenticeship qualification.
- If Level 2 in maths and English have not already been achieved, then you will work towards this by the end of your apprenticeship.
- Construction Skills Certification Scheme (CSCS) – which provides proof of training to ensure you can work safely in construction.
- Eligible to register as Eng Tech by the Engineering Council.

Other trades and professions that plumbers might interact with:

- Plasterers
- Architects
- Project managers
- Gas Engineers
- Electricians



How could you progress?

By gaining skills and experience as a plumber, you could also have a successful future career as a:

- Team leader/supervisor
- Project manager
- Teacher/trainer
- Business owner – by starting your own business

