

Carpenter

Carpentry apprenticeships

What does a carpenter do?

Carpenters work with building materials (most often wood) to create and install building components, such as doors, staircases, window frames, mouldings, wall and floor units and structural components.

A carpenter will typically shape, cut, and install finished materials for new builds and refurbishments.

A carpenter will sometimes work on-site as part of a team, or could also work individually.



Which apprenticeships are there in carpentry?

- Intermediate: Carpentry and joinery (level 2)
- Advanced: Carpentry and joinery (level 3)



What could your typical daily tasks include?

- Cutting and shaping wood for doors, skirting boards, roof structures and other wooden items.
- Making and fitting staircases, and internal and external structures.
- Installing furniture such as wardrobes, cupboards or kitchens.
- Using various tools and machinery, including hand tools.
- Working outside and inside.



How long will the apprenticeship take to complete?

A typical apprenticeship will take between 1.5 – 2 years to complete.



How much could you earn?

As a qualified carpenter and joiner, you can earn on average between £17,000 - £38,000 a year, depending on your experience and location.

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Useful skills you will develop as a carpenter

- Attention to detail.
- Ability to follow technical plans/drawings.
- Practical knowledge to install fixtures.
- 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 carpentry.
- For the advanced apprenticeship, it is usually expected that those starting this apprenticeship will have already achieved the intermediate apprenticeship.

Qualifications you will gain

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

Other trades and professions that carpenters might interact with:

- Plasterers
- Plumbers
- Architects
- Bricklayers
- Surveyors
- Decorators
- Estimators



How could you progress?

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

- Team leader/supervisor
- Project manager
- Contract manager
- Teacher/trainer
- Specialist in heritage and restoration
- Business owner – by starting your own business

