

# Building and plumbing labourer

Average salary: \$60,000

Career trend: growing

## Job description

Building and plumbing labourers help create roads, homes, sewerage systems and school structures. They perform a variety of physical tasks associated with erecting and repairing structures.

## What building and plumbing labourers do

Building and plumbing labourers do manual outdoor work requiring physical strength and fitness to construct and repair buildings or structures.

Working on construction and demolition sites, gardens, farms, roadsides, and bushland, their hours are dictated by the amount of light available. Work often continues in all types of weather and conditions.

Building and plumbing labourers will take and relay orders while collaborating with their team to overcome obstacles and fix problems. They perform a variety of tasks including maintaining stormwater, drainage and sewerage systems, excavating earth, clearing and levelling sites, installing and maintaining piping systems, fixtures and water regulators.

Building and plumbing labourers are increasingly required to use computerised equipment along with their basic numeracy and literacy skills to read written technical plans and drawings and calculate measurements for temperature, pressure, weight or mass.

They may also operate heavy machinery or drive heavy vehicles.

## You'll like this job if...

You can work unsupervised and in teams. You concentrate on the task at hand. You're a problem solver. You have smooth hand-eye coordination. You enjoy manual activities. You're physically fit and like working outdoors. You're detailed and methodical. You can read plans. You're adaptable, responsible and reliable.

## Will I get a job?

- Growth in this occupation is predicted in Australia over the next four years, with 700 more jobs bringing the total to 70,600.

## What will I earn?

- \$951 to \$1,100 median full-time weekly salary (before tax, excluding super).

## Roles to look for

- Builder's labourer
- Construction worker
- Drainage, sewerage and storm water labourer
- Earthmoving labourer
- Plumber's assistant

## A day in the life...

Work as a building and plumbing labourer may involve these tasks:

- load and unload building and construction materials, tools and equipment, and transport them around building sites
- erect and dismantle temporary structures such as barricades and scaffolding
- mix, pour and spread materials such as concrete, plaster and mortar
- clean and carry out minor repairs on stormwater drains and canals
- check for cracks and leaks in sewerage systems
- dig holes and shovel excavated material onto conveyors, wheelbarrows and trucks for removal
- spread and level soil, gravel and sand on roads, driveways, trench bottoms and similar
- assist with assembling and installing piping, valves and fittings
- assist with installing fixtures such as toilets, washbasins and sprinkler systems.

## VET qualifications

The following government-subsidised qualifications are available in NSW:

### **Certificate II in Construction (CPC20112)**

- Up to 1 year full-time
- Available as a traineeship
- Graduates employed or in further study: 74.7%\*

### **Certificate II in Construction Pathways (CPC20211)**

- Up to 1 year full-time
- Available as a traineeship
- Graduates employed or in further study: 75.9%\*

**VET offers possibilities for hundreds of careers.**

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[www.vet.nsw.gov.au](http://www.vet.nsw.gov.au)

### Main employing industries

- Construction

### Other jobs you may like...

- Insulation and home improvement installer
- Railway track worker
- Structural steel construction worker
- Concreter

**Information sources** Income: Australian Government Department of Employment, Australian Jobs Report 2017, Occupation Matrix. ANZSCO ID: 2211. Earnings can vary greatly depending on the skills and experience of the worker, and the demands of the role. Job prospects: Australian Government Department of Employment 2017 employment projections to May 2022. Graduate outcomes: National Centre for Vocational Education Research. \*Approximately 6 months after they completed VET.

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