

# Plumber

Plumbers install, maintain and repair pipes, drains, guttering and metal roofing, mechanical services and related equipment for water supply, gas, drainage, sewerage, heating, cooling and ventilation systems.

## Job title examples



- Plumber (General)
- Airconditioning and Mechanical Services Plumber
- Drainer
- Gasfitter
- Roof Plumber

## Other jobs in this field of work

## What plumbers do



- study blueprints, drawings and specifications to determine the layout of plumbing systems and materials required
- set out and install hot and cold water systems and associated equipment
- install water-based fire protections systems, including fire hydrants, hose reels and sprinkler systems
- design and install sanitary plumbing and water supply systems, discharge pipes and sanitary fixtures
- fabricate and install soil and waste stacks
- assemble and install mechanical services plant, air handling and conditioning equipment and small bore heating systems
- install sewerage and effluent pumping equipment and disposal systems
- install below-ground drainage systems and associated ground support systems
- install gas appliances, flues and pressure regulating devices
- fabricate and install metal roofing, rainwater goods and flashing

## Main employing industries



- Construction

## Qualifications



The following government subsidised qualifications are available in NSW:

**Certificate III in Plumbing** available as an apprenticeship or qualification

**Certificate III in Fire Protection** available as an apprenticeship or qualification

**Certificate III in Gas Fitting** available as a qualification

**Certificate III in Gas Supply Industry Operations** available as an apprenticeship or qualification

**Certificate III in Roof Plumbing** available as an apprenticeship or qualification

**Certificate IV in Gas Supply Industry Operations** available as a qualification

**Certificate IV in Plumbing and Services** available as a traineeship and qualification

**Apprenticeships and traineeships:** Find out how to get an [apprenticeship or traineeship](#).

**Course fees:** You may be eligible for government subsidised training under Smart and Skilled. Go to the [Course Finder](#) to find training in your area, estimate your fee and find a training provider.

## Job prospects and pay



- There are around 23,872 plumbers working in NSW.
- Over the next four years, employment in this occupation is expected to decline in NSW.
- Employers report a state-wide shortage of plumbers, with particular difficulty in recruiting general plumbers and roof plumbers.

### Average weekly full time earnings (before tax):

- Plumbers: \$1,000
- All occupations: \$1,200

## Related jobs



- Bricklayer and Stonemason
- Carpenter and Joiner
- Floor Finisher
- Roof Tiler
- Wall and Floor Tiler

To find out more regarding these related jobs, visit the [Job Guides Homepage](#).

### Information sources

Occupations: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations, 1220.0

Employment: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Labour Force, Australia, Detailed, Quarterly, 6291.0.55.003

Skills shortages: Department of Employment, Skill Shortage List NSW 2015-16

Job prospects: Centre of Policy Studies (CoPS), Victoria University, Employment Forecast Data for NSW 2015/16 to 2022/23

Earnings: Department of Employment, [joboutlook.gov.au](http://joboutlook.gov.au), based on ABS Characteristics of Employment Survey, August 2014