

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 protection 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, based on ABS Characteristics of Employment Survey, August 2014