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.

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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

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Related jobs

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

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

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**Information sources**

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