



Suffolk Joint
Construction
Committee

Carpenter

Carpenters and joiners make and install wooden fixtures and fittings. They can work in many areas, on construction sites, fitting out shops and bars, and building sets for film and TV.

THE ROLE

If you enjoy working with wood and want to put your practical skills to good use, this could be an ideal career for you.

You'll need an eye for detail, good maths skills for working out measurements and the ability to follow technical plans.

Employers usually want people with some construction experience and relevant qualifications.

You could start as a joiner's mate or labourer to get some site experience then take further training to qualify.

Another common way into this career is through an Apprenticeship scheme.

SALARY EXPECTATIONS

Qualified carpenters earn between £18,000 and £25,000 a year

With experience, this can rise from £26,000 to over £40,000 a year

Overtime and shift allowances can increase income

Self-employed carpenters and joiners set their own rates

CAREER PROGRESSION

CARPENTRY
APPRENTICE

CARPENTER

GANGER

GENERAL
FOREMAN

Carpenter

ENTRY ROUTE

Employers usually look for people with some on-site experience and qualifications. If you have not worked in construction before, you may be able to start as a carpenter's mate or labourer to get site experience. Once working, your employer may offer you training in carpentry and joinery.

Another route is to take a full-time or part-time college course in carpentry and joinery. This would give you some of the knowledge and practical skills needed for the job and may improve your chances of finding work in the industry.

Courses include:

- Level 1 Award in Basic Construction Skills
- Level 1 Award in Wood Operations
- Level 2 (NVQ) Certificate/Diploma in Wood Occupations
- Level 2 Diploma in Construction Crafts (carpentry and joinery)
- Level 2 Diploma in Site Carpentry.

TYPICAL TASKS FOR A CARPENTER:

- Cut and shape timber for floorboards, skirting boards and window frames
- Make and assemble doors, window frames, staircases and fitted furniture

- Fit wooden structures, like floor and roof joists, roof timbers, staircases, partition walls, and door and window frames (first fixings)
- Install skirting boards, door surrounds, doors, cupboards and shelving, as well as door handles and locks (second fixings)
- Build temporary wooden supports to hold concrete in place while it sets, for example building foundations (formwork)
- Make and fit interiors in shops, bars, restaurants, offices and public buildings
- Construct stage sets for theatre, film and TV productions

For more information on becoming a carpenter visit:

www.goconstruct.org

www.citb.co.uk

or talk to your local college

Your career journey starts here!

