

Plumber

About my job:

As a plumber, I install and repair water, drainage and gas pipes in homes, businesses and factories. I install and repair large water lines, such as those which supply water to buildings, and smaller ones, including lines that supply water to refrigerators. I also install plumbing fixtures and appliances and I fix plumbing problems.



What I do every day:

- Assemble pipe sections, tubing, or fittings, using couplings, clamps, screws, bolts, cement, plastic solvent, caulking, or soldering, brazing, or welding equipment.
- Install pipe assemblies, fittings, valves, appliances such as dishwashers or water heaters, or fixtures such as sinks or toilets, using hand or power tools
- Keep records of work assignments
- Fill pipes or plumbing fixtures with water or air and observe pressure gauges to detect and locate leaks
- Direct helpers engaged in pipe cutting, preassembly, or installation of plumbing systems or components

What makes my job great?

Job growth:

Ohio has a projected growth of 19 percent, which is higher than the national average growth of 12 percent between the years of 2012 to 2022.

Short-term training:

The entry-level education requirement is a High School Diploma or equivalent. Most of the jobs in this field require training from a technical school, or on-the-job training experience. Most employers offer apprenticeships through their organizations.

Good pay:

The median pay for a plumber in Ohio is \$52,010, which is slightly higher than the national average. Median pay means half of plumbers make less than this salary, and half of plumbers make more.

Benefits:

Most plumbers work full time, and overtime, with benefits included in their job. Self-employed plumbers would have to invest in their own personal benefits.

How can you become an plumber?



Training credentials:

Most states require plumbers to be licensed, which requires up to five years of experience as a plumber and to pass an exam that encompasses knowledge of the trade, as well as local plumbing codes.

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Skills and requirements:

- Knowledge of machines and tools required for the job
- Knowledge of the building and construction process
- Knowledge of design tools and techniques, including an understanding of CAD software
- Well-developed problem-solving skills
- Knowledge of mathematics

Potential job titles:

- Commercial plumber
- Drain cleaner
- Drain technician
- Journeyman plumber
- Master plumber
- Plumber
- Plumber gasfitter
- Plumbing and heating mechanic

Where you can find jobs:

- Online job boards
- Temp services
- Local career fairs
- Networking
- Department of Career Services at colleges

Potential local employers

- Hofmann Plumbing
- Service Experts
- Mr. Rooter
- Mayer Plumbing
- WeatherKing Heating & Air Conditioning



Local educational opportunities

Academic/Training Credentials:

Most occupations in this field require career technical education, related on-the-job experience, or an apprenticeship program

Tech Prep:

- Auburn Career Center: construction program
- Excel TECC: construction trades program
- Lake Shore Compact: construction management program

Post-Secondary:

- Apprenticeship programs – Ohiopipetrades.com



Coursework per educational entity:

Secondary pathway:
Construction

Postsecondary program:
Construction Management

An Example of Course with Secondary and Postsecondary Credits

Secondary	7 8	English I	Algebra I	Physical Science	Social Studies	Fine Arts	Core & Sustainable Construction		
	9 10	English II	Geometry	Biology	World History	Health (.5) PE (.5)	Plan Reading	World Languages	
	11	English III	Algebra II	Chemistry	U.S. History	Construction Technology	Carpentry & Masonry Skills	World Languages	
	12	English IV	Trigonometry/Calculus	Environmental Science	U.S. Government	Mechanical Electrical & Plumbing	Structural Systems		
Post-Secondary	Apprenticeship Program								
High School Career-Technical Education Program Courses									
High School Courses for Postsecondary Credit (Including Apprenticeship Hours) and the Corresponding Postsecondary Courses									
Required Courses									
Recommended Electives									

How can I grow my career?



Where could I focus or specialize in my career?

- Service technician
- Field manager
- Operation manager
- Distribution manager

Sources/References:

Ohio Means Jobs, Bureau of Labor Statistics – Occupational Outlook Handbook

O*Net Online-Summary Report, Ohio Labor Market Information, Explorethetrades.org