

Construction Workers

A Construction Worker is a person who helps to put up buildings in the community. Construction workers usually work as a team to build houses, apartments, offices, stores, bridges, tunnels and roads. Construction workers also do demolition, meaning that they tear down old structures, usually to make room for new ones. Each construction job offers unique working conditions. Construction workers can do everything from simple loading and unloading, to working on platforms high above the cityscape, to working with hazardous materials. While most outdoor construction jobs are put on hold during very inclement weather, a construction worker does need to be willing to work out of doors in all conditions and temperatures.

Hours vary depending on the job, location and season, with indoor jobs varying less due to the weather. Some jobs, like highway construction, occur mostly at night. Others, like new home construction, often offer regular, nine-to-five schedules.

A construction worker usually wears boots, a fluorescent vest, a tool belt, thick gloves, and a safety helmet. It is also a good practice to dress in layers, in order to remain comfortable during temperature fluctuations at certain times of the year.

Construction workers use all kinds of tools. They use hand-held power tools like drills, saws and hammers, as well as large vehicles like backhoes and bulldozers. They can also specialize in particular skills like welding, scaffold erecting, concrete finishing, or obtain other special trade certifications. Some individuals start out their careers doing hands-on construction, and move on to becoming general contractors or labor supervisors.

There are not usually any particular education requirements to get an entry-level job in the construction field, although a high school diploma or General Equivalency Diploma (G.E.D.) are usually expected. A curriculum including English, math, physics, shop and welding are good preparation for a career in construction. As the number of Spanish-speaking construction workers grow, fluency in Spanish is also desirable, especially if you aspire to be the foreman of a team. Other desirable skills are good senses of balance, depth-perception and hand-eye coordination. Construction workers also generally need to be strong and physically fit, as the job can be physically demanding!

In your opinion, what are the advantages of a career in construction?

