

CONSTRUCTION

NOC 7251

PLUMBER (T.Q.A.A., compulsory certified trade)



WORK DESCRIPTION

What would I be doing?

Plumbers install and repair pipes, fixtures, and appliances. Plumbers may be called to fix a leaky faucet or to install oxygen and medical gas in a hospital. They install and maintain sewage and water treatment systems, storage and flow system for toxic wastes. Plumbers can install gas pipes but not the connection. Plumbers may perform some or all of the following:

- read blueprints, specifications, plumbing and building codes,
- may have to produce detailed reports of the work done,
- estimate cost of the job,
- if self-employed, they must keep records of the jobs done,
- may use computer assisted welding.

The work of a Plumber may be performed in cramped areas or at great heights. It is year-round but new construction starts have their peaks and valleys. Shift work is not unusual and a 40-hour work week is standard for unionized workers.

PLACE OF WORK

Who needs Plumbers?

- considerable degree of choice and variety,
- some Plumbers are self-employed and others work in different settings:

- **Residential**
homes/apartments and condos,
- **Industrial**
municipal buildings, water and sewer systems, factories, hospitals, and schools
- **Commercial**
business offices, gas and heating/air conditioning companies.

CONDITIONS OF WORK

Plumber is a T.Q.A.A., compulsory certified trade. A person must have a valid Certificate of Qualification or be registered as an apprentice to work in this trade. Under TQAA, for **compulsory trades**, the Cooperative Education student **must be a registered apprentice and may be paid** according to the Regulations.

SALARIES/WAGES

The salary of the Plumbers depends on the employer. In unionized places the wages and conditions of work are negotiated collectively. The rate of wages for an apprentice is a specified percentage of a journey person's wage according to experience and level of training.

In the Elgin, Middlesex and Oxford area, Plumbers can earn \$ 16.37 - \$ 21.70 per hour, averaging \$ 19.60 per hour.

(Next)

PROSPECTS of EMPLOYMENT in the Elgin, Middlesex and Oxford area

RATING: good

The Plumbing trade is heavily influenced by both the economy and weather conditions.

APPRENTICESHIP IN THE PLUMBING TRADE

- takes 4 to 5 years or about 9 000 h, including 720 h of in-school, post secondary training; prior education and experience may shorten the time to complete all the competencies,
- must pass the Provincial Qualifying exam to receive both a Certificate of Apprenticeship and a Certificate of Qualification with journeyman status,
- offers (optional) an Interprovincial Trade Certification (Red Seal).

In-School Education:

An OYAP student must be 16 years old and have completed Grade 10 (or equivalent). Otherwise, Grade 10 is the minimum requirement, however, completion of Grade 12 (OSSD) is advantageous. The following competencies are valuable:

English, *Communication and planning skills,*
Mathematics, *problem-solving skills*
Physics, *problem-solving skills*
Construction Technology,
Design Technology.

OYAP students must be full-time students in high school and those who obtain apprenticeships will complete the apprenticeship curriculum in college or an approved Training Delivery Agent. Specific skills learned in school are: safety, trade communications, blueprint reading, drainage systems, waste piping, venting systems, water distribution systems, plumbing codes, storm drainage systems, sewage disposal systems, process piping systems, trade calculations

and physics, welding, rigging and hoisting procedures.

On the Job Training

- As a high school Cooperative Education credit (towards O.S.S.D.), learning is connected to one of the school subjects. Must be signed as an apprentice to qualify for Cooperative Education.
- The apprentices must follow a program in the **Apprenticeship Training Standards** book which is given to them in the workplace when they register. As each competency is achieved the employer signs it off. A training Consultant monitors progress.

OPPORTUNITY TO GROW

A Certificate as a journeyman is needed to start working as a plumber. After that, a plumber may:

- become a foreperson or a supervisor,
- become an estimator,
- start own business,
- work in related areas or occupations.

RELATED OCCUPATION

- Pipe Fitter,
- Plumber Gas Technician,
- Steamfitter-Pipefitter,
- Gas Main and Line Technician,
- Sprinkler System Installer.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Whom should I call?

Guidance/Co-Op Office/Tech. Teacher
Apprenticeship Office 519 675 7788
London: 1 800 265 1050

Apprenticeship web www.edu.gov.on.ca

EMOLTB web site: www.localboard.on.ca

Training Hotline: 1 800 387 5656

Union: United Association of Journeymen & Apprentices of the Plumbing & Pipefitting Industry of the United States and Canada - Local 593 519 455 5630