

Can Women be Residential Construction Carpenters?

YES



"Basically, the building aspect of it is what attracts me. Being able to point to something and say, 'Hey, I had a part in that.'"—Sandra Quinones, construction laborer, New York

Idaho Wages
Hourly wage \$9.22 to \$24.43
Median wage \$14.67
(Idaho Occupation & Wage Report, 2006)

To be a Residential Construction Carpenter one must:

- have a high school diploma or GED; and
- complete on-the-job training, an apprenticeship, or a training program.
- Carpenters can learn their skills by attending formal training programs.
- College of Southern Idaho offer course in Residential Construction. **Technical and Associate of Applied Science degrees are offered at the College of Southern Idaho.**

Idaho Employment

7617 jobs— Very Large occupation
21% —annual growth
307 jobs—high annual openings
Nationally, women make up 9.6% of the labor force.
Source: US Dept of Labor (2006)
About 32 percent of carpenters are self-employed.

Job Outlook

The number of Americans is growing as more children are born and more people move to this country. As a result, we need more houses and more or larger businesses to meet society's needs. Builders are using more pre-built components, such as wall panels and stairs. These can be installed very quickly. In addition, improved glues and lightweight, cordless tools make carpenters more efficient. Carpenters who have all-round skills will have the best chances of remaining employed. Job openings will be plentiful. This is a large occupation with high turnover.

Carpenters frequently:

- Stand or walk for long periods of time.
- Use their hands to handle and control tools and materials.
- Bend or twist their body.
- Repeat the same movements.

Regardless of Gender a Residential Construction Carpenter Must:

- Study blueprints and get instructions from supervisors.
- Lay out, measure, and mark wood or other materials, using measuring tapes and squares.
- Cut and shape wood or other materials, using hand and power tools.
- Join and assemble materials using nails, screws, staples, or glues.
- Put up scaffolding and ladders when building above ground level.
- Check accuracy of work with levels, plumb bobs, or framing squares. Make adjustments when needed.
- Dig postholes and set poles to support structure. Build forms for concrete foundations.
- Inspect, repair, or replace damaged parts of buildings or support structures.
- Install pre-built components, such as doors, stairs, or floors, or build them from scratch.
- Build, install, or repair wooden fixtures, such as cabinets.
- Apply finishes to woodwork and wallboards.
- Adhere to safety rules and regulations.
- Work with subcontractors, such as electricians, plumbers, and heating and cooling system installers.
- Estimate the amount of lumber or other materials needed. Select and order them.

**College of Southern Idaho
Center for New Directions
Non Traditional Occupations Program
Contact Revis Turner— 732-6688
Residential Construction Program
Call Alan Heck—732-6330**