Can Women be Cabinetmakers/ Furniture Builders/Carpenters?

“if you are creative and enjoy hands on, active accomplishments, then cabinetry might be a perfect match for you! The opportunities in this field are as limitless as your imagination. Be creative. Be active. Be a cabinetmaker!” —Marion Frix

Cabinetmakers use power tools such as circular saws, jointers, planers, routers, and sanders. They also use hand tools such as screwdrivers and hammers. Sometimes they program equipment to perform certain cuts or work. They clean and oil their tools and perform basic repairs. In addition, cabinetmakers clean their workshops by sweeping or vacuuming up the sawdust.

Regardless of Gender Cabinetmakers Must:
- Read blueprints for the items to be constructed or repaired. Plan how work will be completed.
- Set up and operate power tools and machines to cut and shape wood.
- Mark dimensions of parts on paper or lumber. Match lumber for color, grain, and texture. Check the quality and fit of pieces.
- Trim joints to create a snug fit. Reinforce joints with nails and other fasteners.
- Nail parts together to create components of cabinets, such as drawers.
- Fit, glue, and clamp components together to form complete units.
- Sand or scrape surfaces to smooth and prepare them for finishing.
- Apply stain, varnish, or lacquer, using brushes or spray guns.
- Install hinges, catches, and drawer pulls, using hand tools.
- Find new clients, keep track of expenses, and order supplies when needed.
- Estimate the amount, type and cost of materials.
- Perform touch-ups with sandpaper and steel wool.
- Program computers to operate machinery. Design furniture using computer-aided drafting, or freehand.

Idaho Wages
Hourly wage $7.81 to $21.22
Median wage $13.46
(Idaho Occupation & Wage Report, 2006)

To be a cabinetmaker one must:
- have a high school diploma or GED; and
- complete on-the-job training, an apprenticeship, or a training program.
- Cabinetmakers can learn their skills by attending formal training programs.
- College of Southern Idaho offer courses in woodworking and cabinetmaking.

Technical and Associate of Applied Science degrees are offered at the College of Southern Idaho.

Idaho Employment
1,083 jobs— Large occupation
23% — annual growth
51 jobs— high annual openings
Nationally, women make up 4.4% of the labor force.

Job Outlook
Growth will depend on the demand for custom-designed interiors for new offices. In addition, more people are expected to want nice cabinets in their homes. However, custom cabinets are expensive. Thus, this occupation is sensitive to the state of the economy. Most employers prefer applicants who have completed a training program in woodworking. Skilled cabinetmakers may advance to jobs as supervisors, estimators, or detailers.

College of Southern Idaho
Center for New Directions
Non Traditional Occupations Program.
To contact call 732-6688
For Cabinetmaking Program Information
Call Ken Triplett—732-6335

Idaho information copyright © 2007 Idaho Career Information System.