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

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.

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 Wages
- Hourly wage $9.22 to $24.43
- Median wage $14.67

(Idaho Occupation & Wage Report, 2006)

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.
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.

College of Southern Idaho
Center for New Directions
Non Traditional Occupations Program
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Residential Construction Program
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