



PLUMBER

ANNUAL SALARY: \$66,000 - \$80,000* | NOC: 7251 | Red Seal & Compulsory Certified Trade¹

*Based on a 40-hour work week at current collective agreement rates for journeypersons (plumbers/pipefitters). Does not include benefits.

WHAT WE DO

Plumbers install, repair and maintain plumbing fixtures and water, hydraulic, drain, waste, vent, low-pressure steam, residential fire, chemical, and irrigation systems in residential, industrial, institutional, and commercial building sites. Sometimes, plumbers install medical gas, process piping, compressed air, water conditioner, fuel piping, sewage, water treatment, and storage and flow equipment systems. Plumbers work with copper, steel, plastic, glass, cast iron, cement, fibreglass, and specialty materials to assemble and fit pipe sections, in addition to using welding, soldering, and hoisting and lifting equipment. They read and interpret blueprints to determine layouts of plumbing systems and water supply networks. In addition, they have to work with the pipes themselves, measuring, cutting, bending, and threading them to join with couplings and welding tools. Plumbers **work in shifts, on their own, or in a team**. They need to be **safety aware**, show **attention to detail**, have **math and planning skills, mechanical aptitude, patience, and coordination**. Plumbers may also need to perform **heavy lifting, work in uncomfortable positions, at heights, or in confined spaces**. People experienced in this trade can become foremen, estimators, transfer their skills to other pipe trades, or start their own business.²

PREPARATORY WORK

- Research the labour market, job shadow or take a test drive in a trade
- 500 hours toward apprenticeship can be obtained from approved public school programs and experiences like Cooperative Education, Skilled Trades, the Options and Opportunities (O₂) Program, and Building Futures for Youth. 16- to 19-year-olds can become a Youth Apprentice.³
- Take youth health and safety courses where offered in the province of Nova Scotia
- High School Diploma or Equivalency⁴

PRE-APPRENTICESHIP & PRE-EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS⁵

- Memorial Composite High School (<http://www.cbv.ns.ca/mchs>) Plumbing Program worth 1000 apprenticeship hours and Group A technical training credit when you register as an apprentice with the NS Apprenticeship Agency (NSAA)
- The Constructing the Future (Bridging to Apprenticeship) Program from the Black Business Initiative (<http://www.bbi.ca>) worth 375 apprenticeship hours
- Nova Scotia Community College's two-year Pipe Trades Diploma Program (worth 2000 apprenticeship hours and Group A technical training credits), one-year Plumbing Certificate Program (worth 1000 apprenticeship hours and Group A technical training credits), and one-year Steamfitting/Pipefitting Certificate Program (worth 1000 apprenticeship hours)⁶
- 12-week Plumber Pre-Employment Program worth 430 hours of apprenticeship from the United Association of Journeymen and Apprentices of the Plumbing and Pipefitting Industry of the United States and Canada (UA), Local 56 (through the UA 56 Pipe Trades Career College)⁷

DIRECT ENTRY⁸

- Gain employment in a workplace with at least one journeyperson and register as an apprentice
- Must complete 7200 hours of on-the-job experience and 5- to 7-week technical training
- Must write your Red Seal Interprovincial Standards Examination and obtain a Certificate of Qualification in the trade from the NSAA
- Additional training is available through UA Locals 56, 244 and 682

¹ <http://nsapprenticeship.ca/trades>. You **must** be or be working towards becoming certified to work in this trade in NS.

² <http://www.red-seal.ca>, <http://www5.hrsdc.gc.ca/NOC>, <http://www.careersinconstruction.ca/en/career/plumber> and <http://careers.novascotia.ca/occupation/154>

³ <http://nsapprenticeship.ca>, <http://www.ednet.ns.ca>, <http://www.workitns.ca> and <http://www.buildingfutures.ca>

⁴ <http://gov.ns.ca/just/regulations/regs/atqgenrl.htm>

⁵ <http://nsapprenticeship.ca>

⁶ http://www.nsc.ca/learning_programs

⁷ <http://www.ualocal56.ca>

⁸ <http://nsapprenticeship.ca>, <http://gov.ns.ca/just/regulations/regs/atqplumb.htm>, www.ua.org and <http://www.ualocal682.ca>

PLUMBERS' CAREER PATHWAY

Cooperative Education: Grades 10, 11 and 12 and at least 16 years of age to be eligible. Provides 100 apprenticeship hours per course credit.

Skilled Trades: High school courses satisfying academic requirements and providing 110 apprenticeship hours per course credit (Grades 10 and 11) and a 100-hour co-op placement.

O₂ Program: In-school learning and on-the-job training through 100-hour co-op placements. Available in select high schools. The *Building Futures for Youth Program* is offered primarily for students already enrolled in O₂ or cooperative education and provides upwards to 300 apprenticeship hours in 3 co-op credits.

Youth Apprenticeship: Ages 16-19. Paid hours that can be counted toward trade designation. Find a certified employer and register with the province (\$14.89 fee for identification). May overlap with co-op placements in high school.

Grade Twelve Diploma or Equivalent

Other Education Programs:

Complete a college or trade school program for advanced credit or experience. Find an employer and register with NSAA for \$148.18 as a new adult apprentice (if not previously enrolled as a youth apprentice).

Direct Entry:

Obtain employment on own or by contacting a union for indenturing and register with NSAA for \$148.18 (if not previously enrolled as a youth apprentice and continuing under the same employer).

Technical Training for the Nova Scotia Plumber Apprenticeship Program

(\$90.20 per week. In some cases, it is available in online format. Youth apprentices are exempted until after high school.)

Group A – 7 weeks
During 0-1800 hrs. of apprenticeship***)

Group B – 6 weeks
1801-3600 hrs.

Group C – 5 weeks
3601-5400 hrs.

Group D – 7 weeks
5401-7200 hrs.

0-900 hours of employment at
45% of journeyperson rate*

\$14.34 –
\$19.15 / hr**

901-1800 hours of employment at
50% of journeyperson rate

\$17.52 –
\$22.97 / hr

1801-2700 hours of employment at
55% of journeyperson rate

2701-3600 hours of employment at
60% of journeyperson rate

3601-4500 hours of employment at
65% of journeyperson rate

\$20.71 –
\$26.80 / hr

4501-5400 hours of employment at
70% of journeyperson rate

5401-6300 hours of employment at
75% of journeyperson rate

\$23.90 –
\$30.63 / hr

6301-7200 hours of employment at
80% of journeyperson rate

Interprovincial Standards
Examination for Designation
(\$148.18)

* Plumber Trade Regulations for NS. Assumes full-time employment.

** Average hourly pay for Industrial, light and heavy Commercial, Institutional, and small jobs plumbing work under summer 2016 mainland NS and Cape Breton Island collective agreement rates. Apprentices may also be able to access employment insurance benefits while in class and tax incentives (refer to <http://nsapprenticeship.ca/about/financial-assistance>).

*** 6 months of work is considered equivalent to approximately 1000 credit hours. If a program is taken that is pre-approved for advanced credit, an apprentice may be credited with equivalent on-the-job hours and technical training credits.

Note: NS apprenticeship registration and technical training fees are current as of April 2016. If an individual applies to be certified on past experience, they must go through the trade qualification program (<http://nsapprenticeship.ca/sites/default/files/docs/forms/TQGP.pdf>) at a cost of \$740.77.