



SPRINKLER SYSTEM INSTALLER

ANNUAL SALARY: \$56,000 - \$69,000* | NOC: 7252 | Red Seal & Compulsory Certified Trade¹

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

WHAT WE DO

Sprinkler system installers will lay, install, repair, maintain, alter, and test various fire protection systems. Some sprinkler system installers specialize in installations, testing, or inspection. They read and interpret drawings, design specifications, and fire codes to determine installation requirements. Using hand and power tools, they place brackets, clamps, and hangers to support piping systems, which consist of pipelines and sprinkler heads. As part of the work, sprinkler system installers may be required to weld, solder, and connect piping systems to water mains, supply tanks, pumps, compressors, and control equipment. They also provide cost estimates as part of projects.²

Sprinkler system installers **work indoors and outdoors, in a team, at heights, and in cramped and awkward spaces**. They must also **lift heavy materials**. Persons suited for this trade have **planning skills, safety awareness, patience, physical stamina, agility, mechanical aptitude, and coordination**. An experienced sprinkler system installer can become a foreman, superintendent, become self-employed, or even transfer their skills to other pipe trades.³

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.⁴
- Take youth health and safety courses where offered in the province of Nova Scotia
- High School Diploma or Equivalency⁵

PRE-APPRENTICESHIP & PRE-EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS⁶

- Nova Scotia Community College's two-year Pipe Trades Diploma Program, worth 1000 apprenticeship hours when you register as an apprentice with the NS Apprenticeship Agency (NSAA)⁷
- 12-week Sprinkler System Installer Pre-Employment Program worth 430 apprenticeship hours 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)⁸

DIRECT ENTRY

- Gain employment in a workplace with at least one journeyperson and register as an apprentice⁹
- Must complete 7200¹⁰ hours of on-the-job experience and technical training in 8-week block releases from UA Local 56¹¹
- Must write your Red Seal Interprovincial Standards Examination and obtain a Certificate of Qualification in the trade from the NSAA¹²
- Additional training is available through UA Local 56

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> and <http://www5.hrsdc.gc.ca/NOC>

³ <http://www.careersinconstruction.ca/en/career/steamfitterpipefitterssprinkler-system-installer> and <http://careers.novascotia.ca/occupation/157>

⁴ <http://nsapprenticeship.ca>, <http://www.ednet.ns.ca>, <http://www.workitns.ca> and <http://www.buildingfutures.ca>

⁵ <http://www.novascotia.ca/just/regulations/regs/atqsprinkler.htm>

⁶ <http://nsapprenticeship.ca>

⁷ http://www.nsc.ca/learning_programs

⁸ <http://www.ualocal56.ca>

⁹ <http://www.nsapprenticeship.ca>

¹⁰ <http://www.novascotia.ca/just/regulations/regs/atqsprinkler.htm>

¹¹ http://www.nsapprenticeship.ca/sites/default/files/docs/pubs/Training_Schedule.pdf

¹² <http://www.nsapprenticeship.ca/skilled-workers/red-seal>

SPRINKLER SYSTEM INSTALLERS' 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 Sprinkler System Installer Apprenticeship Program

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

Level 1 – 8 weeks
During 0-1800 hrs. of apprenticeship***)

Level 2 – 8 weeks
1801-3600 hrs.

Level 3 – 8 weeks
3601-5400 hrs.

Level 4 – 8 weeks
5401-7200 hrs.

0-900 hours of employment at 40% of journeyperson rate*

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

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

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

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

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

\$12.19 – \$16.61 / hr**

\$14.90 – \$19.93 / hr

\$17.61 – \$23.25 / hr

\$20.32 – \$26.58 / hr

Interprovincial Standards Examination for Designation (\$148.18)

* Sprinkler System Installer Trade Regulations for NS. Assumes full-time employment.

** Average hourly pay for sprinkler system installers under collective agreement rates for mainland NS and Cape Breton Island as of summer 2016. 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.