

# TILESETTER



**ANNUAL SALARY: \$59,000 - \$69,000\* | NOC: 7283 | Nova Scotia Designated & Red Seal Trade<sup>1</sup>**

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

## WHAT WE DO

Tilesetters (also called tile workers) will cover and protect, repair, and decorate wall surfaces, floors, ceilings, pools, showers, and fireplaces with tiles. To perform this work, tilesetters will often read and interpret architectural drawings and material specifications to determine tile layouts and finish and installation requirements. They prepare the tile surfaces, select, mix and apply mortar, cement, and adhesives, cut, polish and fit the tiles, and then apply grout.

Sometimes, tilesetters use mosaic tiles to create elaborate designs on walls and floors, working with ceramic, marble, granite and other materials in their day-to-day work. They are typically employed by construction companies and masonry contractors unless self-employed.

Tilesetters use special hand and power tools like cutters and saws to make tiles the correct size to be laid around obstacles and openings. Generally, they **work indoors**, but might also have to **perform tasks outside where they are exposed to poor weather**. It is useful for persons working in this trade to have a good **knowledge of math** for measurements and preparing cost estimates, the **ability to read and understand blueprints and drawings, bend, reach and work at heights, and lift heavy materials**, and **be able to plan**. **Good vision and spatial awareness, coordination, balance, and communication skills** are also important. Experienced tilesetters can become foremen, superintendents, or become self-employed.<sup>2</sup>

## PREPARATORY WORK

- Research the labour market, job shadow or take a test drive in a trade
- Enrol in the Cooperative Education, Building Futures for Youth, Skilled Trades, or Options and Opportunities (O<sub>2</sub>) Programs.<sup>3</sup> Please note: students can receive academic credits and experience but are not eligible to receive apprenticeship hours from these programs, as there is no formal apprenticeship program in the province for tilesetters. New entrants must be industry trained as on-the-job apprentices (described in the next section).
- Take youth health and safety courses where offered in the province of Nova Scotia
- High School Diploma or Equivalency

## DIRECT ENTRY

- Find an employer or contact the local union for indenturing (joining to receive membership benefits such as training)
- Apprenticeship (not mandatory) is available in some areas (e.g., mainland NS and Cape Breton Island)
- Length of apprenticeship will depend on your employer or union
- Advancement through pay grades may depend on completion of training and length of employment
- The International Union of Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers (BAC), Local 1<sup>4</sup> requires that four years of apprenticeship be completed by prospective tradespeople in order to be called a journeyperson tilesetter<sup>5</sup>
- Experienced tilesetters can challenge the Red Seal Interprovincial Standards Examination as a Trade Qualifier (TQ) after 12,000 hours of trade experience and obtain their Certificate of Qualification from the NS Apprenticeship Agency (NSAA) to become a certified tilesetter<sup>6</sup>

<sup>1</sup> <http://nsapprenticeship.ca/trades>. Certification/apprenticeship is not presently needed in this trade in NS, but encouraged.

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.red-seal.ca>, <http://www.careersinconstruction.ca/en/career/tilesetter> and <http://www5.hrsdc.gc.ca/noc>

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

<sup>4</sup> <http://bacweb.org/index.php>

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.nsclra.ca>

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.nsapprenticeship.ca>

# TILESETTERS' CAREER PATHWAY

**Cooperative Education:** Grades 10, 11 and 12 and at least 16 years of age to be eligible.

**Skilled Trades:** High school courses satisfying academic requirements. The Grade 12 course offers a co-op placement.

**O<sub>2</sub> Program:** In-school learning and on-the-job training through co-op placements. Available in select high schools. The *Building Futures for Youth Program* is offered primarily for students already enrolled in O<sub>2</sub> or cooperative education and provides upwards to 3 co-op credits.

**Grade Twelve Diploma or Equivalent**

**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).

BAC = International Union of Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers, Local 1

**Technical Training from Union or Employer**

Safety training, equipment training, or other certifications

(BAC) First 12 months of employment at 50-52% of journeyperson rate\*

\$15.28 – \$17.21 / hr\*\*

(BAC) Second 12 months of employment at 60-67.5% of journeyperson rate

\$17.63 – \$22.34 / hr

(BAC) Third 12 months of employment at 70-80% of journeyperson rate

\$20.57 – \$26.47 / hr

(BAC) Fourth 12 months of employment at 92.5-95% of journeyperson rate

\$27.19 – \$31.44 / hr

**Journeyperson Status:**  
May obtain provincial designation as a Tiler with Red Seal endorsement (TQ fee of \$740.77) for interprovincial mobility.

\* From the collective agreements for BAC Local 1. Apprentices complete the required amount of hours on the job and progress through pay grades at each level.  
\*\* Average hourly pay for apprentices in training under summer 2016 collective agreement rates for general, Commercial, and Industrial projects on mainland NS and Cape Breton Island  
Note: NS TQ fee is current as of April 2015