

Career Profile: Building Contractor/ Registered Builder



Someone must put all the pieces together and it's the building contractor who coordinates the construction of houses and other buildings. As a Building Contractor, you select the trades people, coordinate the trades and construction process and liaise with the clients. Many Building Contractors undertake some of the work personally, for example if a Building Contractor began their career as a Carpenter, he/she might do the carpentry work involved in the project.

Most Building Contractors are either self-employed as a sole proprietor, a partner in a small company or work as a company director in a larger firm. They usually specialise in one area of construction, such as new homes, extensions or renovations of established homes, shopping centres and factories.

Also known as: Registered Builder, Builder

What would my working day look like?

Some of the tasks you may complete are:

- ▶ Overseeing the construction of a project
- ▶ Organising and managing subcontractors, materials, work and inspections
- ▶ Arrange, read and interpret drawings and blueprints and calculate materials required
- ▶ Schedule material and labour to arrive on time for each section of the project
- ▶ Estimate costs and schedules
- ▶ Communicate with suppliers, clients and workers on site
- ▶ Carrying out some parts of the work you are qualified to complete
- ▶ Organise and manage a constantly changing workload
- ▶ Work to have plans of a project approved by the local government authority
- ▶ Organising payments to subcontractors and suppliers and invoices to client for the works
- ▶ Carrying out inspections on the project
- ▶ Managing any matters relating to loans and contracts that arise
- ▶ Monitoring and managing project quality and risk

I might enjoy this job if:

- ▶ I like taking on and enjoy being in leadership roles
- ▶ I enjoy building things and enjoy technical activities
- ▶ I am good at Maths, English, Design and Technology and manual studies such as woodwork
- ▶ I plan on completing a trades apprenticeship
- ▶ I like to start and complete projects, paying careful attention to detail and accuracy

Working conditions and hours

You will generally be outdoors when you are travelling between sites to inspect the quality of the work and to make sure it meets building standards, meeting clients onsite or are completing part of the work yourself. At times you will work in an office environment to complete paper work and phone calls associated with the project and sometimes will work from your mobile office (i.e. vehicle) using your mobile phone or laptop to order materials to site, book trades in or to report on progress of the project. You will generally work full time (generally 48+ hours per week) and are expected to start work early in the morning, some evenings and work some weekends depending on how many projects you are completing.

How do I become a Building Contractor?

Most Building Contractors usually started their careers with an apprenticeship in a building trade. After gaining the trade qualification, and with further building experience (generally 5-7 years), they study to become a Registered Builder with a Diploma of Building and Construction (Building). If you're still at school, you can enrol in the Certificate II in Building and Construction-Trades pathway. Otherwise, you may like to complete a Certificate III trades qualification as an apprenticeship, which usually takes 36-48 months to complete and includes on the job training with an employer.

Future pathways and opportunities

You can set up your own building company or hold a top-level position in a large construction firm. With further study your career could lead you to become a Construction Manager, Project Manager, Building Inspector, Building Surveyor or Quantity Surveyor.

Average Pay

Up to **\$3,450** per week

depending on your qualifications, experience and number of projects you have and are completing

(Source: Job Outlook)

What skills and personal qualities do I need?

- ▶ Have a careful, methodical and accurate approach to work
- ▶ Be interested in practical work and have good manual skills
- ▶ Have good communication and interpersonal skills
- ▶ Be physically fit for the physical demands of the job
- ▶ Have excellent planning, organisational and time management skills
- ▶ Demonstrate leadership and management skills



Next Steps

Further information can be found at:

- ▶ Jobs and Skills WA – www.jobsandskills.wa.gov.au
- ▶ Australian Apprenticeship Pathways – www.aapathways.com.au
- ▶ Australian Apprenticeship Support Network Providers – www.australianapprenticeships.gov.au
- ▶ Job Outlook – www.joboutlook.gov.au