

Career Profile: Building Technician

Building Technicians work on construction projects to assist in the building of houses and commercial projects, often undertaking a supervisory role. They provide technical assistance to Construction Managers, Architects, Surveyors and other workers. Their role is usually tailored for their specific area of expertise.

What would my working day look like?

Some of the tasks you may complete are:

- ▶ Assisting in the planning, organisation and supervision of building projects from Construction Managers, Surveyors or Builders
- ▶ Arranging supplies of material and equipment
- ▶ Interpret building plans, regulations, and codes of practice to direct work on site
- ▶ Ensure work is completed to specifications and relevant regulations
- ▶ Record construction progress and variations to the project scope
- ▶ Calculate costs and timeframes of a project
- ▶ Negotiate the buying of materials for a project and checking quality
- ▶ Provide technical support to professionals including Builders, Engineers and Construction Managers

I might enjoy this job if:

- ▶ I enjoy being creative, building things and completing technical activities
- ▶ I am good at Maths, English, Design and Technology, Engineering studies and manual studies such as woodwork or metal work
- ▶ I like fault finding and investigating why things like appliances or tools do not work how they should
- ▶ I enjoy working with and helping other people and communicating with others
- ▶ I like taking on and enjoy being in leadership roles

Working conditions and hours

You will usually work on a construction site to supervise the project and to report on how it's progressing. Most of your work will be outdoors in all types of weather unless you are in an administration or estimating role where your time may be split between an office and onsite. You will generally work full-time (47 hours per week).

How do I become a Building Technician?

To be a Building Technician you will need to have a white card to work on a construction site. Most Building Technicians start their careers with an apprenticeship or traineeship and use that qualification to specialise when in the role of a Technician. You may also be required to complete a Diploma in your area of expertise or in Building and Construction – Building so that you can oversee a project and liaise with tradespeople and clients. Common areas of expertise include carpentry, electrical, plumbing, surveying and drafting.

If you are still at school, you can enrol in the Certificate II in Building and Construction-Trades pathway to become a tradesperson or Certificate II in Building and Construction – Paraprofessional (Business) for non-trades-based areas to get started.

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. For non-trades-based areas you will need to complete a minimum Certificate III or IV in the area you want to specialise in (e.g. draftsman, surveying and spatial information, business administration or project management).

Future pathways and opportunities

You can work for some of the largest construction companies on residential or commercial projects. With several years' experience behind you and further studies at University your career could lead you to become a Construction Manager, Quantity Surveyor or Building Surveyor.

Average Pay

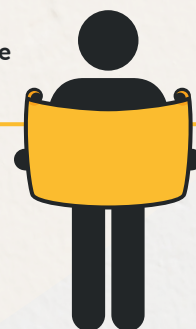
Up to **\$1,838** per week

depending on your qualifications and experience.

(Source: Job Outlook)

What skills and personal qualities do I need?

- ▶ A careful, thorough and accurate approach to work
- ▶ Good interpersonal skills and communication skills to work with and deal with others
- ▶ Be able to organise and manage a constantly changing workload
- ▶ Can motivate others, work as part of a team and with other tradespeople
- ▶ Have a sound knowledge in the area you specialise in



Next Steps

Further information can be found at:

- ▶ Job Outlook – www.joboutlook.gov.au
- ▶ The Good Universities Guide – www.gooduniversitiesguide.com.au
- ▶ Australian Apprenticeship Pathways – www.aapathways.com.au
- ▶ Australian Apprenticeship Support Network Providers – www.australianapprenticeships.gov.au