

Career Profile: Cabinet Maker

Cabinet Makers enjoy working with a variety of materials including wood, laminate, metal and stone. They have an eye for detail and take pride in displaying their work. In the building and construction industry, Cabinet Makers build and install kitchen/bathroom cabinets, wall units, built-in robes and display cases from either wood or wood substitutes for both commercial and domestic markets. They may use imported timbers or those native to specific states in Australia.

Specialisations: Antique Furniture Reproducer or Restorer, Custom Design Furniture Maker

What would my working day look like?

Some of the tasks you may complete are:

- ▶ Building and repairing custom or production type fixtures and furniture
- ▶ Making or repairing furniture of solid timber, flat panel or timber-based products
- ▶ Fitting, assembling and installing prepared components for the domestic, office, commercial and shop fitting sectors of the industry for both free standing and fitted furniture
- ▶ Prepare drawings from specifications or determine job requirements by examining drawings and specifications
- ▶ Make layouts, jigs, templates or prototypes for production of furniture
- ▶ Select and prepare timber and manufactured board and mark out, cut and shape pieces using saws, chisels, planes, power tools and woodworking machines
- ▶ Cut, shape, mould and assemble components of wood and wood substitutes, and sand wooden surfaces
- ▶ Clean and maintain your work area, including machinery and tools and maintain safety requirements
- ▶ Discuss projects with clients and draw up detailed specifications
- ▶ Estimate the amount and type of material needed and cost the job
- ▶ Install completed products

I might enjoy this job if:

- ▶ I am creative and like to design items to make
- ▶ I enjoy manual and practical work
- ▶ I love working with wood and wood products/ tools
- ▶ I am good at maths, literacy, design and technology and manual studies such as woodwork
- ▶ I don't have allergies to dust

Working conditions and hours

As a Cabinet Maker you may be based in a large factory or a small workshop to manufacture components and will work on-site when installing kitchen cabinets, wall units, built in robes and display cases for the commercial and domestic markets. You will use hand and power tools as well as computerised machines that may be automated to assist with these works.

You will generally work full time (approximately 44 hours per week).

How do I become a Cabinet Maker?

If you're still at school or you are post-secondary schooling and don't have any experience in the industry, enrol in the Certificate II in Building and Construction-Trades pathway. Otherwise, to become a Tradesperson and get a trade certificate you'll need to complete a Certificate III in Cabinet Making as an apprenticeship, which takes up to 42 months to complete.

Future pathways and opportunities

Future career development may involve working as a sub-contractor or starting your own business. You may even venture into custom made or bespoke furniture. With further training your career could lead you to become a Site Supervisor, Construction Manager, Registered Builder or even a Building Inspector.

Average Pay

Up to **\$1,050** per week

depending on your qualifications and experience

(Source: Job Outlook)

What skills and personal qualities do I need?

- ▶ Be able to understand and interpret drawings and plans
- ▶ A careful, thorough, and accurate approach to work
- ▶ Take pride in your work and the finished product
- ▶ Have good manual and coordination skills
- ▶ Be safety conscious
- ▶ Be a team player
- ▶ Have communication and interpersonal skills to work with clients and other people
- ▶ Good time management and critical thinking 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