

Career Profile: Civil Construction General Workers



Civil Construction Workers are everywhere. They are employed by contractors on major residential subdivision projects, from initial works to final streetscape beautification and maintenance; major road works including freeways, bridges, airports, and railway works and by Local Governments to repair and maintain vital infrastructure. A Civil Construction Worker is typically involved in all facets of general civil construction works, including manual excavation, concreting, laying pipes, pavement repair, grade checking and simple levelling, site drainage and traffic control.

What would my working day look like?

Your work will vary according to the type of construction job and industry sector you are employed in and certificate level you have achieved. Some of the tasks you may complete are:

- ▶ Handling construction materials and safe disposal of waste
- ▶ Compacting, levelling and spreading materials to form roads and footpaths
- ▶ Performing minor repairs to road surfaces, maintaining bridges and repairing signs and signposts
- ▶ General roadside maintenance such as grass cutting and weed control
- ▶ Directing traffic through construction areas
- ▶ Loading and unloading equipment and cleaning work sites
- ▶ Digging trenches so that footings and services can be laid, using hand tools and jackhammers if necessary, to break up rock and concrete
- ▶ Learning to drive backhoes, bulldozers, excavators, front-end loaders, graders, scrapers, skid steer loaders, rollers and forklift trucks
- ▶ Operating machinery to level, excavate, move and load earth, rock and other material
- ▶ Scaffolding, dogging or rigging

I might enjoy this job if:

- ▶ I enjoy being outdoors
- ▶ I like practical and manual activities
- ▶ I am a person who enjoys physical work
- ▶ I have good hand eye coordination
- ▶ I can work independently and as part of a team
- ▶ I enjoy manual subjects at school such as woodwork, metal work and design and technology

Working conditions and hours

You will mainly work outdoors and may work on large infrastructure, construction sites, road construction and maintenance, residential subdivision and bulk earthworks, foundation work, railway construction and maintenance, tunnel construction and pipe-laying. You may work regular full-time hours (44 hours per week) if working on a project or may include shift work including late nights, early mornings and weekend work.

How do I become a Civil Construction Worker?

To work in civil construction in Western Australia you will need a construction white card to work onsite. To get started if you're still at school, you can enrol in a Certificate II Civil Construction qualification as part of your WACE. Otherwise, you may like to complete the following qualifications through a Registered Training Provider or as a traineeship, which usually takes 12 months to complete and includes on the job training with an employer.

Certificate II	Certificate III
- Civil Construction	- Civil Construction

Future pathways and opportunities

You can be employed on large civil construction projects and/or complete some short courses to add some licenses to your portfolio of skills in machinery operation, so you have more variety in your job role. With further training your career could lead you to become a Civil Construction Supervisor or Civil Construction Manager.

Average Pay

Up to **\$1,192** per week
depending on your qualifications and experience

(Source: Job Outlook)

What skills and personal qualities do I need?

- ▶ Have good concentration skills
- ▶ Be able to listen to and follow instructions carefully and accurately
- ▶ Be able to visually judge distances and have spatial awareness
- ▶ Be interested in practical work and have good manual skills
- ▶ Have a strong awareness of safety issues
- ▶ Be a team player
- ▶ Be physically fit for the physical demands of the job



Next Steps

Further information can be found at:

- ▶ Jobs and Skills WA – www.jobsandskills.wa.gov.au
- ▶ Australian Apprenticeship Pathways – www.aapathways.com.au

- ▶ The Good Universities Guide – www.gooduniversitiesguide.com.au
- ▶ Civil Contractors Federation – www.civilcontractors.com
- ▶ Australian Apprenticeship Support Network Providers – www.australianapprenticeships.gov.au
- ▶ Job Outlook – www.joboutlook.gov.au

