

# Building Inspector

Check that new buildings follow the code before people move in. A trade or diploma, then a municipal job with a pension.

## TYPICAL PAY

**\$80,000**

a year, full time

## PAY RANGE

**\$51k to \$114k**

starting to experienced

## TIME TO QUALIFY

**4 to 8 years**

after high school

## DEMAND

**Moderate**

job outlook

## LICENCE NEEDED

**Yes**

regulated job

## WHERE YOU WORK

**City halls, construction sites, permit counters, inspection vehic...**

## How you get there

- 1 High school diploma** Grade 12  
Grade 12 with math, English and a construction or drafting class.
- 2 Trade or diploma** 2 to 5 years  
A journeyperson ticket (carpenter, plumber, electrician are common) or a 2 to 3 year Architectural or Civil Engineering Technology diploma.
- 3 Work in construction** 3 to 5 years  
Municipalities want people who have framed, plumbed or drawn real buildings. Three to five years is typical.
- 4 Pass the code exams** Months to a year  
In Ontario, provincial Building Code exams in the categories you will inspect, then registration with the province. In BC, qualification through BOABC (the Building Officials' Association of BC). In Alberta, Safety Codes Officer certification in the building discipline.
- 5 Building official in training, then inspector** 1 to 2 years  
Hired by a municipality, mentored on the job, then signing your own inspections.

## Pros and cons

- + Municipal pension, benefits and regular daytime hours
- + Uses trade skills without the wear on your body
- + Real public safety role: you catch problems before people move in
- You need years in construction before anyone hires you
- Constant conflict with builders who want you to pass their work
- Heavy paperwork and legal exposure if something is missed

## Optional boosts

More code categories. Plans examiner. CBCO (Certified Building Code Official). Deputy or chief building official.

## Good to know

### Every Ontario municipality needs one

Ontario has 444 municipalities, and each must appoint a chief building official under the Building Code Act. OBOA (the Ontario Building Officials Association) has more than 2,300 members and trains abou...

### The code changes under your feet

Building codes are rewritten every few years to add new rules on energy efficiency, accessibility, fire safety and mass timber. Inspectors have to re-learn parts of the code throughout their career.

### Where these numbers come from

Job Bank: Building inspector, wages (updated Nov 2025)  
OBOA (Ontario Building Officials Association)  
OBOA: Certification (the CBCO designation)  
BOABC (Building Officials' Association of British Columbia)

Numbers checked September 2026. Pay figures are typical full-time annual amounts in Canadian dollars, based on Government of Canada Job Bank wage data and published salary grids. They vary by province, employer and experience. Tuition is for domestic students. Sources, links and the click-through version: <https://career.help/ca/careers/building-inspector>



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