

Carpenter

Frame houses, form concrete towers or finish trim. The broadest trade on any site, paid from day one.

TYPICAL PAY

\$62,000

a year, full time

PAY RANGE

\$40k to \$90k

starting to experienced

TIME TO QUALIFY

4 to 5 years

after high school

DEMAND

Good

job outlook

LICENCE NEEDED

No

anyone can do it

WHERE YOU WORK

**House builds, high-rise sites,
renovations, shops**

How you get there

- 1 High school diploma** Grade 12
 Grade 12 with math and a shop class. OYAP (Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program) or RAP (Registered Apprenticeship Program) in Alberta let you start in Grade 11 or 12.
- 2 Find a sponsor** Weeks to months
 A builder, a formwork contractor, a renovator or the union hiring hall. A pre-apprenticeship program helps you get noticed.
- 3 Register the apprenticeship** Days
 With Skilled Trades Ontario, Alberta Apprenticeship and Industry Training, or your province's equivalent.
- 4 Work and study** 4 years
 About 7,200 hours in Ontario: roughly 6,500 on the job plus three in-school levels of 8 to 10 weeks at a college.
- 5 Certificate of Qualification and Red Seal** After your hours
 Pass the provincial exam. The Red Seal endorsement lets you work in any province.

Pros and cons

- + Paid from day one, no student debt
- + Certified in 4 years
- + The widest range of work of any trade
- Physically hard: lifting, kneeling, heights, cold and heat
- Residential work slows in winter and in housing downturns
- Nail guns and saws cause real injuries

Good to know

Most Canadian homes are wood

Wood-frame construction is the standard for houses and low-rise buildings across Canada. Carpenters build the skeleton of almost every new home in the country.

Towers made of wood

Brock Commons at UBC (University of British Columbia) was 18 storeys of mass timber when it opened in 2017, one of the tallest wood buildings in the world at the time. Tall wood buildings are now a...

Optional boosts

Red Seal endorsement. Formwork. Finish carpentry. Scaffolding tickets.

Where these numbers come from

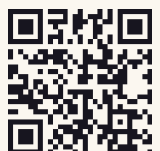
Job Bank: Carpenters, wages (updated Nov 2025)

Red Seal Program: Carpenter

Skilled Trades Ontario

Alberta Apprenticeship (Tradesecrets)

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/carpenter>



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