

Concrete Finisher

Place, level and finish concrete floors, sidewalks and slabs. Early mornings, because concrete waits for no one.

TYPICAL PAY

\$71,000

a year, full time

PAY RANGE

\$51k to \$90k

starting to experienced

TIME TO QUALIFY

2 to 3 years

after high school

DEMAND

Good

job outlook

LICENCE NEEDED

No

anyone can do it

WHERE YOU WORK

**Building sites, roads and sidewalks,
warehouse floors, driveways**

How you get there

- 1 High school diploma** Grade 12
Grade 12 with math and shop. Some employers will take you without it.
- 2 Find a sponsor** Weeks
A concrete contractor, a forming company or the union hall. Labouring on a crew for a season is the normal way in.
- 3 Register the apprenticeship** Days
With Skilled Trades Ontario (where the trade is called Cement (Concrete) Finisher), Alberta Apprenticeship and Industry Training, or your province's trades body.
- 4 Work and study** 2 to 3 years
About 5,000 hours in Ontario: 4,500 on the job plus 480 hours in class, usually two levels of about 8 weeks. Other provinces set their own hours.
- 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

- + Certified in 2 to 3 years with almost no cost
- + Concrete is in every building, road and bridge
- + A visible, satisfying finished product every day
- Very early mornings, all year
- Hard on knees, back and hands; wet concrete burns skin
- You cannot stop until the pour is finished, whatever the hour

Good to know

Concrete waits for no one

Once water hits cement the clock starts. A finisher has a couple of hours, less in summer heat, to get the surface right. Miss the window and the slab has to be ground down or torn out.

The most-used material on earth

Concrete is the most widely used building material in the world. Humanity pours billions of tonnes of it a year, and every tonne needs someone to finish it.

Optional boosts

Red Seal endorsement. Polished and decorative concrete. Large industrial floors. Curb and gutter machines.

Where these numbers come from

Job Bank: Concrete finishers, wages (updated Nov 2025)

Red Seal Program: Concrete Finisher

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/concrete-finisher>



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