

Plasterer

Smooth walls, ornate ceilings and exterior stucco. A three-year Red Seal apprenticeship with almost no tuition.

TYPICAL PAY

\$69,000

a year, full time

PAY RANGE

\$48k to \$91k

starting to experienced

TIME TO QUALIFY

2 to 3 years

after high school

DEMAND

Moderate

job outlook

LICENCE NEEDED

No

anyone can do it

WHERE YOU WORK

New builds, renovations, heritage interiors, commercial ceilings

How you get there

- 1 High school diploma** Grade 12
Grade 12 with math and a shop class. Some provinces let you start through a high school apprenticeship program.
- 2 Find a sponsor** Weeks to months
A drywall and plaster contractor, a stucco company or a union hiring hall. Starting as a taper's helper is the usual way in.
- 3 Register the apprenticeship** Days
The trade is called Drywall Finisher and Plasterer in Ontario, BC and the Atlantic provinces, and Plasterer in Quebec.
- 4 Work and study** About 3 years
About 5,400 hours in Ontario: roughly 4,920 on the job plus one in-school level of 480 hours.
- 5 Certificate of Qualification and Red Seal** After your hours
Pass the provincial exam. Add the Red Seal endorsement to work anywhere in Canada.

Pros and cons

- + Short apprenticeship, paid from day one
- + Indoor work, so income is steady year-round
- + Easy to start your own small company
- Hard on shoulders, wrists and back; overhead work all day
- Dust and wet materials every shift
- Residential piecework rewards speed over craft

Good to know

Every old house is full of plaster

Before drywall took over in the 1950s, nearly every Canadian home had lath-and-plaster walls: thin wood strips covered in three coats of wet plaster. Repairing them properly is a skill most drywallers do not...

Red Seal since 2012

Drywall Finisher and Plasterer is one of the newer Red Seal trades. It was designated in 2012, which means a certified plasterer's ticket now works in every province.

Optional boosts

Ornamental and heritage plaster. Stucco and EIFS (exterior insulation and finish systems). Fireproofing and acoustic spray. Red Seal endorsement.

Where these numbers come from

Job Bank: Plasterer, wages (updated Nov 2025)

Red Seal Program: Drywall Finisher and Plasterer

Skilled Trades Ontario: Drywall Finisher and Plasterer (453A)

Government of Canada: Canada Apprentice Loan

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/plasterer>



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