

Sprinkler Fitter

Install and test the fire sprinklers every new building needs. Paid apprenticeship, about 4 years.

TYPICAL PAY

\$91,000

a year, full time

PAY RANGE

\$56k to \$116k

starting to experienced

TIME TO QUALIFY

4 to 5 years

after high school

DEMAND

Good

job outlook

LICENCE NEEDED

Yes

regulated job

WHERE YOU WORK

**Construction sites, condos,
warehouses, hospitals**

How you get there

- 1 High school diploma** Grade 12
Grade 12 with math. Shop or construction classes help.
- 2 Find a sponsor** Weeks to months
A fire protection contractor, or apply through the union hiring hall. In Ontario UA (the plumbers and pipefitters union) Local 853 runs intake for apprentices.
- 3 Register the apprenticeship** Days
With Skilled Trades Ontario or your provincial trades authority.
- 4 Work and study** About 4 years
7,200 hours in Ontario (6,480 on the job plus 720 in class) covering pipe, hydraulics, fire codes and system design. Alberta runs 4 years of about 1,600 hours plus 8 weeks of school each.
- 5 Certificate of Qualification and Red Seal** After your hours
Pass the provincial exam, then add the Red Seal endorsement to work anywhere in Canada.

Pros and cons

- + Steady demand: codes require sprinklers, downturn or not
- + Paid from the start, licensed in about 4 years
- + Strong union presence and pension in Ontario
- Overhead work all day is hard on shoulders and neck
- Construction sites: cold, dusty, early mornings
- Fewer employers than plumbing, so fewer places to shop your ticket

Optional boosts

Inspection and testing certification. Backflow prevention certification. Fire alarm or special hazards training. Plumber or steamfitter (a second trade).

Good to know

They do not all go off at once

Movies get it wrong. Each sprinkler head has its own heat-sensitive bulb or link and opens only when the air near it gets hot, usually around 68 degrees Celsius. Most fires are stopped by one or two heads.

Sprinklers cut fire deaths dramatically

NFPA (the National Fire Protection Association) data shows the death rate in fires is roughly 80 to 90% lower in buildings with working sprinklers. This trade is life safety, not decoration.

Where these numbers come from

Job Bank: Steamfitters, pipefitters and sprinkler system installers, wages (updated Nov 2025)

Red Seal Program: Sprinkler Fitter

Skilled Trades Ontario: Sprinkler and Fire Protection Installer (427A)

alis Alberta: Sprinkler Systems Installer occupation profile

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/sprinkler-fitter>



Scan for the full clicker