

Gasfitter

Run and test the gas piping behind every furnace, water heater and restaurant range. Get it wrong and a building comes down.

TYPICAL PAY

\$63,800

a year, full time

PAY RANGE

\$44k to \$108k

starting to experienced

TIME TO QUALIFY

4 to 5 years

after high school

DEMAND

Very high

job outlook

LICENCE NEEDED

Yes

regulated job

WHERE YOU WORK

Homes, apartment buildings, restaurants, utility crews, industri...

How you get there

- 1 Finish high school** Grade 12
 Math, shop and physics. Get a driver's license, because no service company will hire you without one.
- 2 Get taken on as an apprentice** Weeks to months
 Apply to a union local, a mechanical contractor, a gas utility or a non-union training program. This is the hard step, and persistence beats grades.
- 3 Register the apprenticeship** Days
 With your state apprenticeship agency or the federal Office of Apprenticeship, so your hours are recorded and count toward the license.
- 4 Work and study** 4 to 5 years
 Typically four to five years, roughly 8,000 hours on the job plus several hundred classroom hours a year covering gas codes, venting, combustion, sizing and safety.
- 5 Sit the license exam** After your hours
 Your state or city board tests you on the gas code and on practical work. Pass it and you are licensed to work unsupervised.

Pros and cons

- + Paid from your first week, with no student debt
- + Licensed in four to five years
- + Emergency work means you are never short of hours
- A mistake can kill people, and you carry that
- Crawlspace, attics, trenches and other people's basements
- Winter call-outs at 2am when a furnace dies

Good to know

Natural gas has no smell

The rotten-egg odor is a chemical called mercaptan added on purpose so leaks can be noticed. It was made standard after a Texas school heated by unodorized gas exploded in 1937 and killed hundre...

Roughly half of American homes burn gas

About half of households in the country heat with natural gas, and millions more cook with it or use it for hot water. Every one of those systems needs somebody qualified to install, test and eventually repl...

Optional boosts

Master plumber or master gas fitter. Pipe welding certification. HVAC (heating, ventilation and air conditioning) certification. Medical gas certification.

Where these numbers come from

My Next Move: Plumbers, Pipefitters, and Steamfitters (47-2152.00)
 Virginia Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation, gas fitter tradesman license
 Apprenticeship.gov, United States Department of Labor
 Plumbing-Heating-Cooling Contractors Association

Numbers checked September 2026. Pay figures are typical full-time annual amounts in United States dollars, based on Bureau of Labor Statistics wage data and published pay scales. They vary by state, employer and experience. Tuition is for in-state students at public schools unless the card says otherwise. Sources, links and the click-through version: <https://career.help/us/careers/gasfitter>



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