

The Craft of Carpentry and Joinery

Carpenters/joiners use their skills to make structures and fittings such as windows and doors from wood and wood materials. They use a variety of hand tools and power tools to cut, shape and join the wood.

Central Aspects

Learning new practical skills

Working with wood

Learning and developing new craft-related skills, knowledge and competence

Secondary Aspects

Understanding technical drawings and diagrams

Being accurate with numbers in counting, measuring and arithmetic

Being physically active and on your feet

Practical skills and theoretical knowledge

Other Aspects

Working outdoors in any weather

Operating machines

Learning about buildings, roads etc. and how they are built

Being aware of how colours and shapes are used in design

Lifting or carrying heavy items

Being well-organised and careful with practical tasks

Travelling around from place to place

Working on ladders or at a height

Taking responsibility for own learning, including the allocation of study time

Work activities

Carpenters/joiners use their skills to make structures and fittings such as windows, doors, stairs, furniture and shop fittings from wood and wood materials. A carpenter cuts, shapes and joins wood, using a wide range of tools including hammers, planes, chisels, screwdrivers and measuring tapes. Also, they often use power tools and cutting machines.

A carpenter has to study drawings, make calculations and select suitable materials to meet design requirements.

They may work in a workshop or on-site.

Personal qualities and skills

As a carpenter/joiner you will need to be physically fit and able to work well with your hands. Attention to detail and an eye for shape and colour is also important.

You will also need a head for heights because you may need to climb ladders and work on scaffolding.

Pay and opportunities

A qualified and experienced carpenter-joiner earns in the range of €25,500 - €37,500 a year.

Carpenter/joiners work a 39-hour week. Overtime, including Saturday working, may be available.

During your apprenticeship you will be paid an apprentice rate. The actual rates paid may vary, depending on the occupation and employer. Generally, the rates will increase in a number of steps during the apprenticeship. You should seek details of rates of pay for apprentices from your prospective employer.

All apprentices are paid a training allowance by FÁS while attending off-the-job training phases 2, 4 and 6.

Opportunities arise from time-to-time for promotion to supervisor level. Many persons use an apprenticeship as a first step in proceeding to such occupations as instructors, teachers, training advisers, managers and owners of businesses.

Where apprentices and crafts persons have the necessary ability, initiative and basic qualifications, opportunities are available for advancement. These include advanced technological and management courses which are available in Institutes of Technology, schools of management, professional institutes, etc.

Persons anxious to advance themselves in their careers are advised to discover for themselves what opportunities are available.

Note: Wage and salary figures quoted under pay and opportunities are approximate and are for guideline purposes only. These may vary depending on experience or economic and local circumstances. Any variances are outside the control of FÁS.

The craft is designated for apprenticeship training and as such is governed by the statutory apprenticeship rules that have been made by FÁS.