

JOB DESCRIPTION

Plumbers install and repair water, drainage, and gas pipes in homes, businesses, and factories. Common tasks include:

- Preparing cost estimates for clients
- Keeping records of work performed
- Reading blueprints and following state and local building codes
- Determining the materials and equipment needed for a job
- Installing pipe assemblies, fittings, valves, and appliances for dishwashers, water heaters, sinks, or toilets
- Identifying malfunctioning systems
- Maintaining and repairing plumbing systems

PAY

\$62,970 median annual wage (\$30.27 per hour) as of May 2024

JOB OUTLOOK

4% (as fast as average) 2024-2034

EDUCATION/TRAINING

Most jobs in this field require training from a technical school or on-the-job training experience. Most employers offer apprenticeships through their organizations.

Training credentials: Most states require plumbers to:

- Be licensed, which requires up to five years of experience as a plumber
- Pass an exam that demonstrates knowledge of the trade and local plumbing codes.

IMPORTANT SKILLS/ATTRIBUTES

- Knowledge of machines and tools required for the job
- Knowledge of the building and construction process
- Well-developed problem-solving skills
- Critical thinking skills
- Understanding blueprints and basic math
- Flexibility
- Good customer service skills
- Physical fitness

APPRENTICESHIPS

BENEFITS OF AN APPRENTICESHIP:



Qualify as a full-time employee at the sponsor company



Earn a paycheck while learning career skills, "earn while you learn"



Participate in classroom instruction that applies directly to your career



Typically receive benefits after 90 days, including health insurance and pension



Learn from skilled workers

JATC PLUMBERS & PIPEFITTERS LOCAL 120 CLEVELAND

www.actohio.org/apprenticeship/ohio-training-centers/plumbers-training-centers/jatc-plumbers-pipefitters-local-120-cleveland/

JATC PLUMBERS CLEVELAND LOCAL 55

www.actohio.org/apprenticeship/ohio-training-centers/plumbers-training-centers/jatc-plumbers-cleveland-local-55/

ROTO-ROOTER

Roto-Rooter offers unique "earn-while-you-learn" apprenticeship programs at many of its branches.

www.rotorooter.com/careers/plumbing-apprenticeships/

Apprenticeship listings can also be found at:

ohiomeansjobs.ohio.gov/for-students/9-12-career-advising-resources/career-prep-101/why-apprenticeship

CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS

CLEVELAND STATE UNIVERSITY (*Cleveland*)

Plumbing Technician Certification

An online 4-6 month course to prepare for an entry-level position in the plumbing industry. The program includes an optional volunteer externship opportunity.

csuohio.edu2.com/product/5240/plumbing-technician

CUYAHOGA COMMUNITY COLLEGE (*Cleveland*)

Certificate of Proficiency in Plumbing

Students must be currently working in a registered apprenticeship program in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Apprenticeship and Training, and the United Association (UA).

www.tri-c.edu/programs/applied-industrial-technology/skilled-construction-trades/plumbing/plumbing-certificate.html

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

CLEVELAND BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION TRADES COUNCIL

An umbrella organization for local unions working in the construction industry in greater Cleveland.

www.cbctc.org/

CUYAHOGA COMMUNITY COLLEGE PRE-APPRENTICESHIP TRAINING PROGRAM

This short-term Pre-Apprenticeship Training (PAT) exposes students to a variety of industrial trades through career exploration, hands-on labs, classroom instruction, and guest speakers.

www.tri-c.edu/programs/applied-industrial-technology/skilled-construction-trades/construction-pre-apprenticeship.html

HOME DEPOT

The Path to Pro Skills Program provides general information on learning trades.

www.pathtopro.com/plumbers/

PHCC ACADEMY PLUMBING & HVACR WORKFORCE READINESS COURSE

A free course for students that provides an introduction to working in the plumbing-heating-cooling field and helps them make decisions about their career path in the industry.

www.phccacademy.org/workforce-readiness-course/