



**CAREERS**  
in the Construction  
**TRADES**

**NAHB**  
National Association  
of Home Builders

Student  
Chapters

# Electrical

**Modern life would not be possible without electricians.** If you like to know how electric currents make things work, then this is the trade for you. Qualified electricians are always in demand. With your tools and knowledge, you can go practically anywhere in the country.

**Earning Potential:** According to the BLS, the 2018 national average wage for electricians was **\$59,190/year**. Employment for electricians is expected to grow 9 percent from 2016-2026. (The average growth rate for all occupations is 9 percent.)

In the electrical trade you will learn to:

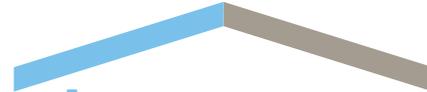
- Cut, bend and install metal conduits and wiring
- Hook up electrical appliances
- Install electrical switches and lighting fixtures
- Wire door bells and fire alarms
- Repair power cords and plugs
- Use equipment for testing circuitry
- Safely handle power tools
- Ensure work is done according to relevant codes

Once you complete training, you have a variety of employment options:

- Apprenticeship program
- Electrical contractors
- Sub-contractors
- Maintenance company



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**\$59,190**

*Average National Wage with 9%  
Estimated Job Growth by 2026*

# Carpentry

**If you like working with wood and take pride in seeing something made with your own hands, then this is the trade for you.** Carpenters are needed in all areas of construction and are often employed through the entire construction process. Thus, it is one of the most secure jobs within the industry. Many carpenters like to build and fix their own homes and run their own businesses in addition to working on a crew.

**Earning Potential:** According to the BLS, the 2018 national average wage for carpenters was **\$51,120/year**. 1 out of 3 carpenters were self-employed in 2016. Self-employed workers often work in residential construction and may be able to set their own schedule.

In the carpentry trade you will learn to:

- Frame floors, walls, ceilings and roofs
- Build concrete forms
- Apply plywood, roof paper and shingles
- Build and set cabinets and countertops
- Install doors, windows, trim and siding
- Install floor joists, rafters and trusses
- Lay wood flooring
- Operate table saws, power drills, routers, joiners, planers and nail guns

Once you complete training, you have a variety of employment options:

- Apprenticeship programs
- Home builders
- Sub-contractors
- Remodelers
- Commercial builders
- General con



**\$51,120**

*Average National Wage with 8%  
Estimated Job Growth by 2026*

# Painting

**Whenever a home is built, nearly all of the interior and some of the exterior surfaces need to be painted to protect them from damage by water, mold and corrosion.** Painting and maintaining painted surfaces improves the appearance and increases the value of a house. There is always great demand for experienced painters.

**Earning Potential:** According to the BLS, the 2018 national average wage for painters was **\$43,050/year**. About 4 in 10 painters were self-employed in 2016. Self-employed workers may be able to set their own schedule.

In the painting trade you will learn to:

- Prepare all types of surfaces – wood, drywall, plaster and masonry
- Mix colors and use a tint machine
- Apply paint, stain, clear finishes, sealants and fillers
- Sand or waterblast
- Use typical and airless spray equipment

Once you complete training, you have a variety of employment options:

- Drywall contractors
- Painting contractors
- Sub-contractors
- Residential contractors



**\$43,050**

*Average National Wage with 6%  
Estimated Job Growth by 2026*



# Masonry

**Laying brick is one of the oldest and most respected trades in the construction industry.**

Masonry construction uses brick, stone, marble, granite, travertine, limestone, cast stone, concrete block, glass block, stucco, and tile. Qualified cement masons are always in demand to place foundations, patios, sidewalks and curbs.

**Earning Potential:** According to the BLS, the 2018 national average wage for masons was **\$54,430/year**. Employment for masonry is expected to grow 12 percent from 2016-2026. (The average growth rate for all occupations is 7 percent.)

In the masonry trade you will learn to:

- Mix mortar and lay brick
- Lay out building lines and grades
- Lay floors and stairs
- Mix and place concrete
- Create different textures
- Apply various finishes to concrete

Once you complete training, you have a variety of employment options:

- Apprenticeship programs
- Masonry contractors
- Sub-contractors
- General contractors

**\$54,430**

*Average National Wage 12%  
Estimated Job Growth by 2026*

# HVACR

(Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Mechanics and Installers)

**Install or repair heating, ventilation, and central air conditioning or refrigeration systems, including oil burners, hot-air furnaces and heating stoves.** Use your knowledge of green technology to ensure safe and healthy building conditions in homes, hospitals, schools and office building. Consumers are replacing older, less efficient systems with new green models increasing the demand HVAC technicians.

**Earning Potential:** According to the BLS, the 2018 national average wage for HVACR technicians was **\$50,160/year**. Employment for HVACR is expected to grow 15 percent from 2016-2026. (The average growth rate for all occupations is 9 percent.)

In the HVACR trade you will learn:

- How to maintain, repair and diagnose equipment related to HVACR technology
- Energy auditing Green alternatives
- Air conditioning design and layout
- Refrigerant systems
- System charging and system evacuation
- Water treatment
- Boiler operation and safety

Once you complete training, you have a variety of employment options:

- Commercial service technician
- Heating system installer
- Heating, Air conditioning and plumbing contractors
- HVACR mechanic
- Maintain and repair climate control for businesses, schools and hospitals



**\$50,160**

*Average National Wage with 15%  
Estimated Job Growth by 2026.*



# Plumbing

## **Nearly all areas of construction rely on plumbers**

If you enjoy working with your hands and using your brain, then this is the trade for you. As long as there are drainage and water systems, there will be a need for reliable plumbers. Plumbers install, repair, and maintain pipes in residential, commercial and/or industrial buildings. Their job includes welding and connecting pipes, opening walls and floors to reach or install pipes, and testing pipes for leaks.

**Earning Potential:** According to the BLS, the 2018 national average wage for plumbers was **\$58,150/year**. Employment for plumbing is expected to grow 16 percent from 2016-2026. (The average growth rate for all occupations is 9 percent.)

In the plumbing trade you will learn to:

- Identify hand and power tools
- Cut and install pipes and fittings
- Install fixtures and hot water heaters
- Test water lines for leaks
- Make underground pipe connections
- Install sprinkler systems
- Weld properly

Once you complete training, you have a variety of employment options:

- Plumbing contractors
- Remodelers
- High-rise and apartment complexes
- Sub-contractors

**\$58,150**

*Average National Wage with 16%  
Estimated Job Growth by 2026*

## CONNECTING to Local Home Builders Associations BUILDS PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE

The NAHB Student Chapters program offers students a unique out-of-classroom experience with the opportunity to build connections to the residential construction industry. Through networking with local building professionals at more than 700 local home builder associations across the country, students gain direct access to internships and jobs where they develop leadership skills and learn more about their chosen career. Establishing a Student Chapter at your school is easy and certainly should be on your list for the upcoming academic year.



### About Home Builders Institute (HBI)

HBI is a national nonprofit that provides training, curriculum development and job placement services for the building industry. With overall program job



placement rates at over 85 percent for graduates, HBI training programs are taught in local communities across the country to at-risk youth, veterans, transitioning military members, high school students, justice-involved youth and adults, and displaced workers. Visit [www.hbi.org](http://www.hbi.org) for more information.

### About National Association of Home Builders (NAHB)

NAHB is a Washington-based trade association representing more than 140,000 members involved in home building, remodeling, multifamily construction, property management, subcontracting, design, housing finance, building product manufacturing and other aspects of residential and light commercial construction. NAHB is affiliated with more than 700 state and local home builders associations around the country. NAHB's builder members will construct about 80 percent of the new housing units projected for this year.



[www.nahb.org/trades](http://www.nahb.org/trades)

