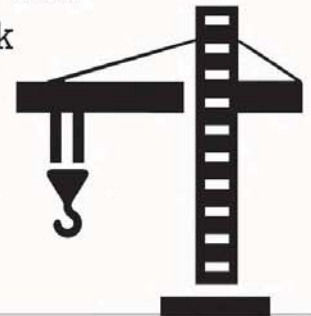




# BUILDER

## JOB DESCRIPTION

Builders work on construction sites or existing structures, building anything from houses and office blocks to factories, roads, and bridges. As a builder, you must have a thorough understanding of health and safety requirements and building materials, and often work alongside other construction professionals—like architects—to complete projects on schedule and to design plans.



### SALARY

Junior builder ★★★★★  
Experienced builder ★★★★★

### INDUSTRY PROFILE

Job prospects improving with growth in housing market • Huge range of building projects, from highway construction to house renovation • Building work available worldwide

## CAREER PATHS

When first entering the construction industry, builders are likely to perform laborious tasks, such as moving materials and assisting other workers. Supervisory roles come as experience is gained. Most builders specialize in a particular area, such as welding or concrete, but it is possible to move into management and remain involved—at a supervisory level—in all stages of construction.

### HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE

You may be able to enter the construction industry out of high school by taking an apprenticeship with a building company.



### COLLEGE GRADUATE

You may choose to improve your career prospects by studying a trade skill—such as bricklaying or carpentry—at college before finding work as a builder.



**TRADESPERSON** You can become a builder if you have experience as a building tradesperson, such as working as a bricklayer, roofer, plumber, plasterer, carpenter, or scaffolder.



**BUILDER** As a builder, you can work on a self-employed basis or join a construction firm, where you could rise through the ranks to become a manager. With experience, you can specialize in roles such as a building technician.

## SKILLS GUIDE



Good numerical skills to interpret plans and designs and take accurate measurements on site.



Strong team-working skills for collaborating with fellow construction staff.



The flexibility to adapt to new projects and to travel to work at different building sites.



Physical fitness and resilience to perform manual work in a range of weather conditions.



Manual dexterity for using hand tools and construction machinery safely and efficiently.



### BUILDING CONTRACTOR

Oversees a project for a building firm, hiring, managing, and coordinating the required construction workers and equipment to complete the job.



**SITE SUPERVISOR** Manages the day-to-day activities of the bricklayers, electricians, carpenters, and other tradespeople on the building site.



**STONE MASON** Specializes in restoring and creating stonework and decorative features. Masons work on new as well as historic buildings.



**BUILDING TECHNICIAN** Estimates building costs, negotiates the purchase of materials, ensures quality standards are maintained, and supervises contractors on site.

## AT A GLANCE



**YOUR INTERESTS** Construction • Design technology • Technical drawing • Mathematics • English • Physical education



**ENTRY QUALIFICATIONS** There are no formal entry requirements. Most entrants learn their trade skills at college or as building apprentices.



**LIFESTYLE** Most builders work regular hours. Evening and weekend work may be required to complete a project or to make the most of favorable conditions.



**LOCATION** Builders usually work on construction sites or in buildings. Some travel is required; overnight stays are likely if sites are far from home.



**THE REALITIES** The work is physically demanding and requires strength, agility, and resilience for working in poor weather or challenging conditions.

## RELATED CAREERS

- ▶ **CIVIL ENGINEER** *see pp. 176–177*
- ▶ **CARPENTER** *see pp. 206–207*
- ▶ **ELECTRICIAN** *see pp. 208–209*
- ▶ **PLUMBER** *see pp. 210–211*
- ▶ **SCAFFOLDER** Constructs scaffolding poles, platforms, and ladders to enable builders to access high-level exterior areas of a building. Scaffolders are also trained to use ropes and climbing equipment to reach inaccessible areas.