

## CAREERS

# Plumbing and Pipefitting

## WHAT THEY DO

Plumbers and pipefitters put in, maintain, and fix many kinds of pipe systems.

- **Plumbers** put in and fix water, gas and drainage systems. They work in houses, factories and businesses. They also put in sinks, toilets, bathtubs, dishwashers, and water heaters.
- **Pipefitters** put in and fix pipe systems. They do this to heat and cool buildings. They put in and fix pipes for manufacturing. And they put in and fix pipes for generating electricity.

## WORK CONDITIONS

You will need a lot of energy. These jobs require heavy lifting. You could work outside in bad weather. You may have to work some nights or weekends. You may even have to be on call as needed. There are some dangers. You could get hurt by sharp tools, falling from ladders, or hot pipes.

## EDUCATION AND TRAINING

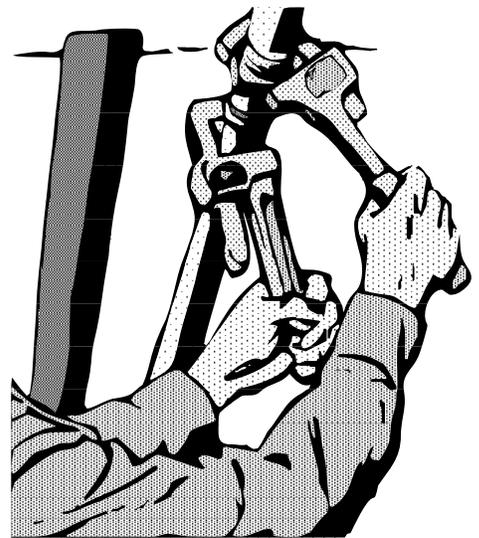
Most people learn in a program as an apprentice. You will need a high school

diploma or GED. You will have 5 years of on-the-job training. You will also need at least 144 hours a year of classes. You will study math, drafting, blueprint reading, physics, chemistry, safety, plumbing codes, and rules.

Most plumbers need plumbing licenses. You need to pass a test about local plumbing codes and plumbing in general.

## JOB OUTLOOK AND EARNINGS

More plumbers and pipefitters will be needed in the next 10 years. More companies will hire them by contract. Workers who are hired by construction projects may be out of work for short periods of time. The average income in 2000 was \$736 a week.



## FOR MORE INFORMATION

You can talk to local plumbing contractors. You can also talk with plumbing unions, your State Employment service, and the State Apprenticeship agency. You could also write to the following address.

National Association of Plumbing-Heating-Cooling-Contractors  
180 S. Washington Street  
P.O. Box 6808  
Falls Church, VA 22040 ■

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27 Lackawanna Ave.  
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