

Working in.....Building

Are you practical, enjoy hands-on work, and like seeing the results of your efforts? Craft and technical jobs in the building sector might be perfect for you! This industry is looking for skilled, passionate young people who want to create and shape our built environment.

Why Choose a Career in Building?

- **Job Security:** Building careers are in demand, with plenty of opportunities across the UK.
- **Hands-on Experience:** Perfect if you enjoy practical work over desk-based roles.
- **Career Progression:** Craft and technical roles provide a foundation for growth. With experience, you could move into higher-level technical or supervisory roles.
- **Variety:** Every day brings new challenges, from site work to custom projects.

Key Craft & Technical Roles

1. Bricklaying

- *What They Do:* Lay bricks and blocks to construct walls, partitions, and other structures.
- *Skills Required:* Attention to detail, precision, and physical strength.
- *Pathways:* Entry via apprenticeships or diplomas, leading to NVQ/SVQ qualifications.

2. Carpentry and Joinery

- *What They Do:* Measure, cut, and shape wood for structures like doors, windows, floors, and furniture.

- *Skills Required:* Eye for detail, manual dexterity, and a good understanding of technical drawings.
- *Pathways:* Carpentry apprenticeships or diplomas, with advanced qualifications available.

3. **Plastering**

- *What They Do:* Apply plaster to walls and ceilings to create a smooth or decorative finish.
- *Skills Required:* Precision, patience, and physical endurance.
- *Pathways:* Begin with an apprenticeship, NVQ, or college course.

4. **Painting and Decorating**

- *What They Do:* Paint and decorate walls, ceilings, and other surfaces for both aesthetic and protective purposes.
- *Skills Required:* Good color sense, attention to detail, and steady hands.
- *Pathways:* Apprenticeships and qualifications in painting and decorating.

5. **Plumbing**

- *What They Do:* Install and repair water systems, including pipes, drainage, and heating.
- *Skills Required:* Problem-solving, technical understanding, and safety awareness.
- *Pathways:* Plumbing apprenticeships or diploma courses leading to Level 2 and 3 qualifications.

6. **Electrician**

- *What They Do:* Install, maintain, and repair electrical systems in homes and buildings.
- *Skills Required:* Technical aptitude, analytical thinking, and a focus on safety.
- *Pathways:* Apprenticeships leading to Level 3 qualifications and NVQs.

Routes into Building Careers

- **Apprenticeships:** A popular choice, offering paid on-the-job training alongside part-time study.
- **College Courses:** Many colleges offer Level 1-3 Diplomas in various building trades.
- **Traineeships:** Short programs combining classroom learning with practical experience, ideal for those who need extra support before an apprenticeship.

Tips for Success

1. **Get Work Experience:** Look for summer placements or volunteer to gain insight into building trades.
2. **Focus on Math & Science:** These subjects are useful for measurements, calculations, and understanding building processes.
3. **Develop Communication Skills:** Being able to communicate effectively on-site and with clients is essential.
4. **Keep Learning:** New techniques and materials are always emerging, so keep skills up-to-date.

Where Can You Go From Here?

Starting in a craft or technical building role can lead to a variety of career opportunities:

- **Advanced Technical Roles:** With experience, you could become a site manager, estimator, or building inspector.
- **Self-Employment:** Many tradespeople eventually set up their own business.

- **Further Education:** You can pursue higher qualifications like HNCs or HNDs in construction.

Here are some courses offered by local colleges in the Liverpool area that can help you start a career in the building industry:

1. City of Liverpool College

Bricklaying Diploma (Level 1, 2, and 3)

- *Overview:* Covers fundamental skills in bricklaying, including walling, blockwork, and arch construction.
- *Progression:* Move from basic techniques at Level 1 to advanced methods at Level 3.

Carpentry and Joinery (Level 1, 2, and 3)

- *Overview:* Learn skills in woodworking, including constructing doors, windows, and frames, and advanced joinery.
- *Progression:* Start with foundational skills, advancing to more complex techniques and on-the-job training at higher levels.

Plastering (Level 1 and 2)

- *Overview:* Covers skills like rendering, plasterboard installation, and decorative plasterwork.
- *Progression:* Ideal for starting in the trade, with Level 2 preparing you for more technical work.

Electrical Installation (Level 2 and 3)

- *Overview:* Offers training in domestic and commercial wiring, testing, and electrical safety.
- *Progression:* Level 3 prepares students for work as qualified electricians or apprenticeships.

2. Hugh Baird College

Construction Skills (Level 1)

- *Overview:* A foundation course in various trades like bricklaying, carpentry, and plastering, helping students choose their path.
- *Progression:* Ideal for beginners who want an introduction before specializing.

Plumbing Studies (Level 1, 2, and 3)

- *Overview:* Focuses on installing and maintaining plumbing systems, including pipework, heating, and sanitation.
- *Progression:* Level 3 allows you to work as a qualified plumber or move into an apprenticeship.

Painting and Decorating (Level 1 and 2)

- *Overview:* Covers surface preparation, application techniques, and decorative finishes.
- *Progression:* From basic skills to intermediate techniques needed for professional work.

Multi-Skilled Construction (Level 1 and 2)

- *Overview:* Teaches foundational skills in several building trades, including bricklaying, carpentry, and painting.
- *Progression:* Great for students who want experience in multiple areas before choosing a specific trade.

3. Knowsley Community College

Introduction to Construction (Level 1)

- *Overview:* Provides basic skills and safety training across various trades, including carpentry, bricklaying, and plastering.
- *Progression:* Suitable for beginners, leading to more specialized Level 2 programs.

Bricklaying (Level 1 and 2)

- *Overview:* Focuses on core skills in brick and block laying, reading technical drawings, and site work.
- *Progression:* Level 2 prepares you for an apprenticeship or trainee position.

Electrical Installation (Level 1, 2, and 3)

- *Overview:* Offers training in wiring, safety, and regulations, leading to qualification as an electrician.
- *Progression:* Level 3 qualifies you for work as a domestic or commercial electrician.

Site Carpentry (Level 1 and 2)

- *Overview:* Covers fundamental carpentry skills, from cutting and fitting to working with technical plans.
- *Progression:* Level 2 enables you to take on more specialized carpentry tasks in residential and commercial projects.

4. Riverside College

Diploma in Construction Multi-Skills (Level 1)

- *Overview:* A broad course covering basic skills in trades like bricklaying, plastering, and painting.
- *Progression:* Ideal for those interested in learning the basics across trades before specializing.

Brickwork (Level 1 and 2)

- *Overview:* Teaches skills in wall construction, joint finishing, and the use of materials.
- *Progression:* Level 2 prepares you for further training or work as an entry-level bricklayer.

Plastering (Level 1 and 2)

- *Overview:* Includes preparing and applying plaster, skimming, and rendering techniques.
- *Progression:* Advances to more technical skills, suitable for site work.

Plumbing Studies (Level 1 and 2)

- *Overview:* Covers installation, maintenance, and safety, focusing on domestic plumbing.

- *Progression*: Level 2 qualifies students for entry-level roles or apprenticeships.

Next Steps

If you're interested, each college has support staff available to help you explore which course best matches your interests and career goals. Visit their websites or attend open days to learn more about each program and see the facilities firsthand!

Interested? Speak to Neil or visit your local college to find out more about courses in your area!