

## PLUMBING CAREERS IN NORTHERN IRELAND

The plumbing industry has a range of opportunities for young people looking for a highly skilled, customer focused and energetic career. Here are some of the occupations within the plumbing industry:

Modern buildings require sanitation, heating, hot and cold water systems in addition to sheet lead weathering. A qualified plumber is responsible for the installation and maintenance of these systems.

### PLUMBER

### GAS FITTER

Skilled gas fitters use their knowledge to ensure that gas systems and appliances are installed, tested and maintained to a high standard.

Industrial and commercial plumbers concentrate on designing, installing and maintaining complex sanitation systems and providing hot and cold water services to large buildings such as offices, schools, hospitals and factories.

### INDUSTRIAL/ COMMERCIAL PLUMBER

### SHEET METAL WEATHERING

### SPECIALIST

Specialist plumbers develop and install intricate weathering systems to protect buildings from rainwater. Generally this type of work is carried out on listed, historical and commercial buildings.

### WHAT SORT OF PERSON DO YOU NEED TO BE?

- Are you good at working with your hands?
- Are you prepared to undertake a physically demanding job, working in a variety of environments, often on site, at heights and in all sorts of weather?
- Do you have full colour vision?\*
- Are you presentable and of smart appearance?
- Are you able to work both on your own initiative as well as in a team?
- Are you able and willing to follow all safety instructions given by persons in authority?
- Are you a good communicator with the ability to take direction and advice from supervisors, managers and other people in positions of authority?

\* For safety reasons, if you are colour blind or colour confused you may have to undergo specialist assessment to ascertain your suitability



## WHERE DO I GO NEXT?

You can contact your local careers advisor and / or contact one of the following organisations that will be able to advise you on your next step to becoming a plumber:

- SummitSkills Careers Advice Line: 08000 688 336
- SummitSkills website: [www.summitskills.org.uk](http://www.summitskills.org.uk)
- CITB (Northern Ireland): [www.citbni.org.uk](http://www.citbni.org.uk) or telephone 0800 587 2288
- Your local college
- Your local careers office: [www.delni.gov.uk](http://www.delni.gov.uk)

You can also start looking for a suitable apprenticeship by sending a letter with your CV to employers in your area.

## TRAINING AND QUALIFICATIONS

For those aged between 16 and 19 years old an apprenticeship scheme is the best way to become a plumber. For those outside this age group, an apprenticeship scheme may be available depending on certain entrance criteria. Please call the Careers Advice Line for specific details.

### What does this involve?

- An advanced apprenticeship is a work-based training programme that offers you paid employment while you learn.
- During your apprenticeship you will gain valuable work experience to develop all the practical and technical skills you will need to become a competent plumber while you will also work towards National Vocational Qualification (NVQ) Level 3 in MES Plumbing.
- In addition to training for specific jobs, advanced apprentices also gain core skills and other qualifications with a possibility of progressing to a technical, supervisory or junior management role.
- Above all it is very important that both you and your employer make a commitment to complete the full course of training.

## HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE?

Your training will take between three and four years.

## QUALIFICATION CHART

This chart shows you what you will be studying while on your apprenticeship programme.

Scheme	NVQ	Key Skills	Other Learning
Advanced Apprenticeship	NVQ Level 3 – MES (Domestic) Plumbing	Communication – Level 2 Application of Number – Level 2 Information Technology – Level 1	Water Regulations Assessment Unvented Hot Water Assessment ACS Gas Qualifications