

My Career in Painting & Decorating



By way of a *Certificate in Painting and Decorating*, graduates may have the possible *career options* of the following:

- Painters
- Sign writer
- Journeyperson
- Interior Designer

Painters and Decorators

The job descriptions and job specifications for these career options are as follows:

Career Overview

This involves the application of paint, wallpaper, fabric and other finishes to interior and exterior surfaces of buildings and other structures. It requires the repair cracks and holes in walls and preparing work surfaces by scraping, sanding, sand-blasting, hydro-blasting and steam-cleaning.

Typical Duties:

- Provide cost estimates and read specifications to determine required materials.
- Erect scaffolding, working platform or use ladders to reach required heights.
- Measure surface areas to work out how much paint or wall covering is needed.
- Prepare surfaces by cleaning, sanding and filling cracks with appropriate fillers.
- Strip off old wall covering or paint.
- Apply primer, undercoat and finishing coat with brush, roller or spray equipment.
- Apply stains, lacquers or varnishes to wooden surfaces.
- Mix paint to the right shade, either by hand or using computerized colour-matching equipment.
- Apply layers of paint and hanging wall coverings.

Typical Duties Cont'd:

- Sketch outlines of lettering or design onto surface and use paints or other materials onto adhesive to reproduce design.
- May install glass in windows or doors.
- Tidy up after finishing a job.

Painters and Decorators must be able to determine the quantities and cost of materials needed. Environmental concerns are becoming part of the required knowledge base. Painters and Decorators need to know the techniques for handling their specialized products, and they must practice safety procedures in applying these products. People practicing this trade should be aware of improvements in product quality, equipment upgrades, and trends in colour and wall coverings. Effective collaboration with interior designers and architects may also be part of the job. Painters and Decorators work on everything from home interiors, residential painting and wall covering work; to industrial tanks and conveyors, corrosion control, wood staining, and surface preparation.

Work Environment

Painters and decorators work a full week and may be required to work longer hours to meet specific project deadlines. Travel from site to site is necessary, working indoors or outdoors, on a variety of domestic and industrial projects ranging from re-decorating homes to applying heavy-duty finishes to large structures. Appropriate protective gear may be required on occasions.

The job may require standing for long periods of time, often with the arms raised over the head. Painters and Decorators may work as part of a team or as independent contractors.

Qualifications and Licenses

While no academic qualifications are required, employers will not hire inexperienced workers. Entry may be acquired through an apprenticeship program, and some on-the-job training may be provided. However, vocational certification is becoming imperative and this may be obtained through SJPP, City and Guilds or C/NVQs.

Essential Qualities and Skills

- ❖ Colour vision, good practical and creative skills
- ❖ Ability to work carefully and pay attention to detail
- ❖ Ability to work alone and as part of a team
- ❖ Ability to work at heights and a sense of balance
- ❖ Punctuality and physical stamina is necessary
- ❖ Awareness of health and safety issues

References

Barbados Standard Occupational Classification, Minor Group 712 section 7126, page 159 – Government of Barbados, Ministry of Employment, Labour Relations and Community Development (1990)

<https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk/advice/planning/jobprofiles/Pages/painteranddecorator.aspx> Retrieved January 2016

<http://www.careersinconstruction.ca/en/career/painter-and-decorator> Retrieved January 2016

<http://www.itabc.ca/program/painter-and-decorator> Retrieved January 2016

Interior Designer

The job descriptions and job specifications for this career option, is as follows:

Career Overview

Interior designers make interior spaces functional, safe, and beautiful by determining space requirements and selecting decorative items, such as colors, lighting, and materials. They read blueprints and must be aware of building codes and inspection regulations.

Typical Duties:

- Search for and bid on new projects.
- Determine the client's goals and requirements of the project.
- Consider how the space will be used and how people will move through the space.
- Sketch preliminary design plans, including electrical layouts.
- Specify materials and furnishings, such as lighting, furniture, wall finishes, flooring, and plumbing fixtures.
- Prepare final plans, using computer applications.
- Create a timeline for the interior design project and estimate project costs.
- Place orders for materials and oversee installing the design elements.
- Visit after the project to ensure that the client is satisfied.

Interior designers read blueprints and must be aware of building codes and inspection regulations. Although some sketches or drawings may be freehand, most interior designers use computer-aided design (CAD) software for the majority of their drawings. They work closely with architects, structural engineers, mechanical engineers, and builders, to determine how interior spaces will function, look, and are furnished.

Work Environment

Most interior designers work full time. They may need to adjust their workday to suit their clients' schedules and deadlines, meeting with clients during evening and weekend hours, when necessary. They travel to the clients' design sites. A driver's license and transportation may be necessary. Often they specialize in a particular type of building (home, hospital, or hotels), a specific room (bathroom or kitchen), or a specific style. Some designers work for home furnishings stores, providing design services to help customers choose materials and furnishings.

Qualifications and Licenses

Interior designers usually need a bachelor's degree with a focus on interior design and or classes in interior design, drawing, and computer-aided design (CAD). A bachelor's degree in any field is acceptable, and interior design programs are available at the associate's, bachelors, and master's degree levels. In some instances licenses, certification and registration is necessary to practice. Certification is available through C/NVQs.

Essential Qualities and Skills

- ❖ *Artistic and creative ability*
- ❖ *Detail-oriented and Problem-solving skills*
- ❖ *Good Interpersonal and communication skills*
- ❖ *Ability to visualize*

References

Barbados Standard Occupational Classification, Minor Group 333 section 3336, page 112 –
Government of Barbados, Ministry of Employment, Labour Relations and Community
Development (1990) <http://www.truity.com/career-profile/interior-designer> Retrieved December
19, 2015