

# **My Career in Carpentry & Joinery**



By way of a *Certificate in Carpentry & Joinery 1 & 2*, graduates have the possible *career options*:

- Construction site carpenter
- Bench joiner
- Boat & Dock carpenter
- House carpenter
- Sign carpenter
- Maintenance/ Restoration carpenter
- Wood machining carpenter

### **Carpentry and Joinery**

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

#### **Career Overview**

Construct, assemble and install wood fixtures during the erection or renovation of building premises.

#### **Typical Duties:**

- Examine drawings specifications to determine job requirements and measure and cut wood to size e.g. timber for floorboards, skirting boards and window frames
- Shape wood using planer, chisel or join wood parts using glue, screws, nails and files or sandpapers wood surface to provide smooth finish.
- Make and assemble doors, window frames, and staircases and fitted furniture.
- Fit wooded structures, like floor and roof joists, roof timbers, staircases, partition walls and door and window frames.
- Erect wooden frameworks and place precut wood to make structures such as wooden buildings, roof systems
- Install wood products like shelving, skirting boards, door surrounds, doors, cupboards, door handles and locks

### **Typical Duties Cont'd:**

- Build temporary wooden supports to hold concrete in place while it sets (e.g. Building foundations – formwork).
- Make and fit interiors in shops, bars, restaurants, offices and public buildings.
- Install locks, sheeting for roofs or fibre-boards for ceilings.
- Apply finishes like varnishes or stains woods.
- Construct sets for theatre, film and TV productions.

### **Work Environment**

Most carpenters and joiners work a standard week, between 39-45 hours and may be required to work weekends or evenings to occasionally meet deadlines. Some of the work can take place outdoors, on ladders, scaffolding or roofs. Some work may be indoors where it is dusty so protective equipment will be necessary and may involve traveling between work sites away from the workshop.

### **Qualifications and Licenses**

Access may be gained through an apprenticeship or technical training school certification which may take from 3 months to 2 years. One's employment chances may be improved with certification through SJPP, City and Guilds or C/NVQs.

### **Essential Qualities and Skills**

- ❖ Possess good practical and analytical skill
- ❖ Organized approach to work with excellent time management skills
- ❖ Eye for and pays attention to detail
- ❖ Ability to follow technical drawings and plans
- ❖ Good mathematical skills for measuring and calculating quantities and angles
- ❖ Reasonable level of fitness and physically able to lift heavy items
- ❖ Ability to work as part of a team, unsupervised and to supervise others
- ❖ Awareness of health and safety
- ❖ Good oral and written communication skills
- ❖ Good balance and an ability to stand for long periods of time

**Reference**

Barbados Standard Occupational Classification, Minor Group 712 section 7122, page 157 –  
Government of Barbados, Ministry of Employment, Labour Relations and Community  
Development (1990)

<https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk/advice/planning/jobprofiles/Pages/carpenterorjoiner.aspx>  
Retrieved December 30, 2015

<https://www.open.edu.au/careers/construction/carpenters-joiners> Retrieved December 30, 2015