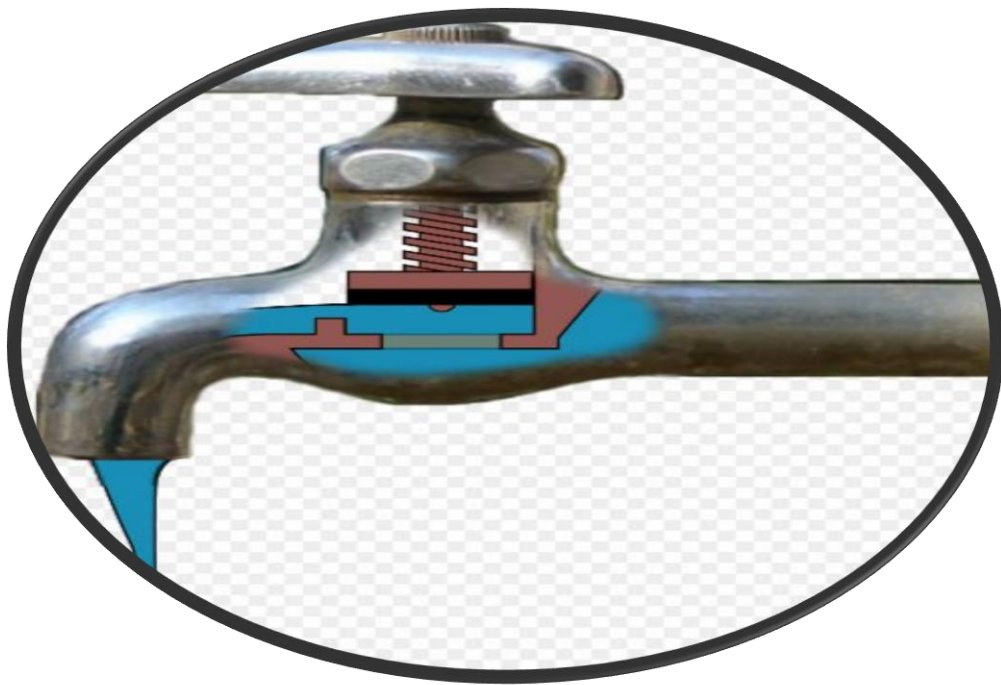


# My Career in Plumbing



By way of a *Certificate in Plumbing 1 & 2*, graduates may have the possible *career options* of the following:

- Plumber
- Pipefitter
- Pipe Insulator
- Steamfitter

NB: Although the job titles may vary, the tasks executed are very similar from one title to another and hence combined.

### **Careers in Plumbing**

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

#### **Career Overview**

A career in plumbing will entail the installation and repair of pipes that carry liquids or gases to, from, and within businesses, homes and factories.

#### **Typical Duties:**

- Examine drawings and specifications to determine the layout of the system and type of pipes to be used and estimate materials required to complete the job.
- Locate and mark positions for pipes, and measure, cut, ream, thread and bend pipe using hand or machine tools.
- Join steel, plastic and copper pipe, and lay pipe.
- Assemble and install valves, pipe fittings, sanitary waste disposal systems, storage tanks, water pumps and other fittings.
- Test completed installation for leaks and make any necessary adjustments.
- Repair and maintain plumbing systems by replacing faulty parts, cleaning blocked drains, etc.
- Conduct scheduled maintenance service on plumbing systems and fixtures.
- Apply all codes to installations, repairs and maintenance.

**Typical Duties Cont'd:**

- Ensure manufacturers guidelines are adhered too.
- Ensure that all installations, repairs and maintenance are properly sized, aligned, supported and graded.
- Prepare estimates, budgets, orders of supplies, daily reports.
- Must schedule work in cooperation with other trades and suppliers.
- Perform other related duties.

**Work Environment**

Plumbers job tend to work in factories, homes, businesses and other places where there are pipes or septic systems. Work locations may vary from busy construction sites requiring much mental focus to working alone in a private home. Some environments may be awkward or at heights, thus preparation is vital.

They may work for a company or as independent contractors. They are often called out for emergencies, after regular hours, on weekends or holidays. Work may be for long hours in awkward positions causing strain that may result in possible injury and or illness. This type of work requires lifting and adjusting heavy objects and the plumber comes into contact with sharp, hot and or cold supplies and equipment. Plumbers may also come into contact with potential poisons and gases, therefore protective gear may be required.

**Qualifications and Licenses**

To practice in this profession, a 3 year training apprenticeship or 2 years full time study in a technical school like SJPP or City and Guilds or C/NVQ certification are required. In some instances, such professionals will be required to register with authorities.

## **Essential Qualities and Skills**

- ❖ Ability to work cooperatively with other trades
- ❖ Analytical, problem-solving and decision-making skills
- ❖ Effective verbal, presentation, listening and written communication skills
- ❖ Stress and time management skills
- ❖ Effective negotiation and mediation skills
- ❖ Proficiency in computer skills
- ❖ Sound work ethic, respectful, honest and trust-worthy
- ❖ Acute awareness of health and safety regulations
- ❖ Physical stamina

## **References**

Barbados Standard Occupational Classification, Minor Group 712 section 7124, page 157 –  
Government of Barbados, Ministry of Employment, Labour Relations and Community  
Development (1990)

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