

PLUMBER/PIPE FITTER

Nature of the Work

Plumber – Responsible for the installation of water line systems to kitchens, bathrooms, lavatories, etc., in residential, commercial, and industrial buildings. Also installs natural gas and air lines. Assembles, installs, and repairs pipes, fittings and fixtures according to specifications and plumbing codes. Measures, cuts, threads, bends, install and tests pipes and pipefittings. Works according to blueprints, specifications, and working drawings to perform the work required in sequence of installation.

Pipe fitter – Installs piping systems that carry hot water, steam, air or other liquids or gases needed for industrial production, or other uses. Installs either high or low pressure systems, especially in industrial and commercial buildings. Lays out, fabricates and assembles pipes from drawings, blueprints and specifications. They also work on pipes for heating and cooling systems and install automatic fire-sprinkler systems in buildings.

Working Conditions

The work is active and sometimes strenuous. Usually Plumbers/Pipe Fitters work indoors, but sometimes outdoors, sometimes on a ladder or scaffold, in trenches and in unfinished sections of new buildings. Often, work is done in cramped, wet or dirty locations. Frequently, it is necessary to stand for long periods. Occasionally, the Plumber/Pipe Fitter works in uncomfortable positions in relatively inaccessible places.

Interest and Personal Qualities

A person wishing to enter this type of work should be able to understand detailed, written and verbal instructions and should be able to plan ahead and visualize completed projects. Persons should enjoy working with their hands and accept working outside under adverse weather conditions. They must have the ability to solve arithmetic problems quickly and accurately.

General Qualifications

- Age 18 or older
- Minimum education - high school graduate or equivalent
- American Citizenship
- Good physical condition - must be able to perform the work of the trade

Admission Requirements of JATC

- Aptitude test
- Physical examination on demand
- Personal interview
- Mathematics Examination

Terms of Training

- Length of indentureship - 5 years.
- Minimum hours of related classroom instruction - 168 hours each year.
- Indentured to the Joint Apprenticeship Committee and assigned to a contractor.
- Length of probationary period - 1 year

Recommended High School Courses

- General Math, Algebra, Geometry, Mechanical Drawing, Trigonometry, General Science, Physics.

Contact Information/Available Applications

West Michigan Plumbers, Fitters & Service Trades Local Union No. 174,

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