



FROM APPRENTICE TO MASTER

the career path of a plumber



A career in plumbing is rewarding in multiple ways. Many plumbers work for 10+ years in their field but each had to follow the same path to get there.

Think you have what it takes?

WELCOME TO THE WORLD OF PLUMBING

Much of the appeal that a career in plumbing has is the absence of tedious hours spent in higher education. If you found that college just wasn't for you, you're not the only one! People that look into plumbing tend to enjoy working with their hands and bodies, rather than sitting in an office after obtaining a difficult degree.

Many plumbers begin their plumbing career later in life after deciding they wanted a career change. You can begin your career in plumbing at any age!

HOW TO START YOUR CAREER:

Plumbing Apprenticeship

Before you walk into the nearest plumbing warehouse and ask for a job, you should do a few things to prepare:

Do Some Research - it's important that you choose a plumbing company that will fit your needs. Consider things like commute, benefits, and the type of plumbing they do.

Graduate from High School - though a career in plumbing doesn't require any additional schooling beyond high school, any plumbing company will require that you have at least a high school diploma or equivalent.

Build Your Resume - it's time to get your resume ready for an interview. Because you are going into a career that will teach you how to be successful, list things on your resume about your personal qualities and selling points. Previous experience is a plus!

Now it's time to start applying places. Think you've found the perfect plumbing company for you? Contact them and make sure you've included all the information they have requested.

Shamrock Plumbing offers excellent benefits, atmosphere, and training.
Call us today to see how we can help you reach your career goals.

THE APPRENTICE YEARS

Every plumbing apprentice is required to complete 4 years of schooling through a technical college. These classes are designed to explain and enhance the things you're learning on the job. They are very hands-on and technical-based, and will focus on execution rather than grades.

Most plumbing companies will pay, or "sponsor", their new apprentice to take these 4 years of schooling during their time with the company, so you can work and learn at the same time!



APPRENTICE PLUMBERS TYPICALLY MAKE BETWEEN **\$31K** AND **\$45K** A YEAR

At the end of the 4 years of schooling the plumbing apprentice must pass a test that allows them to pass onto the Journeyman level. Here are a few things you can expect on that test:

Reading Comprehension & Communication - this is to test your aptitude for communication and basic reading. Plumbers are required to read a lot of contracts and job descriptions.

General Mathematics - you will need to be able to understand the following basic math principles in order to create and read blueprints, determine measurements, and more.

Basic Arithmetic

Units of Measurement

Geometry

Conversion

Basic Plumbing Practices - this section is to test things like simple plumbing repairs, measuring or cutting piping and other equipment, and identifying plumbing parts.

**NOTE that some plumbing companies require you to pass a basic comprehension test before being hired. This test is designed to determine whether or not you would be a good candidate for an apprenticeship, so ask before applying.*

SUCCEEDING IN YOUR APPRENTICESHIP

While you are studying and working as an apprentice you will be expected to work with a team of experienced plumbers. You will accompany other plumbers on their jobs and learn from them. Any work you do will be supervised by a Journeyman or Master plumber.

THE APPRENTICE YEARS

A Journeyman plumber is someone who has passed the state exam and now holds a Journeyman license. That means that they are now licensed to work without a supervisor, and can run their own truck.

“How Do I Know I’ve Passed the State Exam?”

The plumbing company that you've been working with for the last 4 years will assist you with this step. Each apprentice plumber has to complete a certain number of hours on the job and the state requires proof that they have been done. Your plumbing company will send your logged hours to your state and then they will let you know that you've both passed your exam and completed your hours.

SUCCEEDING AS A JOURNEYMAN

As a Journeyman plumber you will be required on occasion to supervise an apprentice, just as a Journeyman supervised you during your apprenticeship. Prepare for this by learning from your fellow Journeymen, and following these tips when training:

Be patient.

Be informative, but not overwhelming.

Allow an apprentice to learn, so don't take over.

Reward your apprentice but don't coddle them.

Don't teach anything your manager doesn't want you to.



MANY JOURNEYMAN PLUMBERS CHOOSE TO STAY AT THIS LEVEL BECAUSE THEY ARE TYPICALLY MAKING BETWEEN **\$56K** AND **\$72K** A YEAR

Many Journeyman enjoy the amount of work and experience they have in their field. As a Journeyman plumber you will still have all the benefits of a Master without the additional schooling. Those who choose to become business owners often deal with more stress and longer hours.

BECOMING A MASTER

Master plumbers are the highest tier in the plumbing journey. They are the men and women who are interested in owning and operating their own team of plumbing contractors. The salary of a Master plumber is largely dependent on how successful they are as a plumber personally and how well their business is doing.

EXTRA SCHOOLING

If you want to become a Master plumber you will need to take extra schooling. In addition to the schooling you took as an apprentice, and your now 8 years of on-the-job experience, you will need to take several business classes through a technical college. These will again be sponsored by the plumbing company you work for. These are designed to teach you how to manage a company and a team. You must pass another test as well before moving onto the Master level.

YOUR CAREER IN PLUMBING

If you're considering becoming a plumber but were unsure of your future, just follow this guide and you'll be quick on your way to success! There will always be a need for plumbing, and experienced plumbers have enjoyed a steady and high paycheck their entire careers. Most plumbing companies offer basic insurance and PTO benefits, allowing plenty of stability and safety in the career as well.

Shamrock Plumbing is located in North Salt Lake and employs over 30 plumbers. We are a family-owned company of dedicated men and women who are experts in our field. We would love to meet you if you found this guide to be helpful! You can email us at: contact@shamrockplumbing.net or you can find us online at SHAMROCKPLUMBING.NET

