



# JOB of the Week



**Job name: Plasterer**

## Job description:

Plasterers are skilled tradesmen who apply plaster and decorative finishes to interior and exterior walls and ceilings. They form part of a building or contracting team and can be skilled in various specialized applications such as lathing and plastering on wooden timbers and dry lining plasterboard.

## Tasks you will undertake in the job:

To ensure success as a plasterer you need to be skilled at internal and external applications, work independently, and be able to understand the client's desires. A top-notch plasterer has knowledge of different plaster types, both wet and dry, and be able to apply browning, bonding, thistle, carlite, and dri-coat as needed.

## As a qualified, skilled Plasterer you will be:

- Quoting clients and other stakeholders on job costs. Keeping to a budget
- Discussing project plans with relevant stakeholders and clients.
- Examining and priming surfaces for plastering.
- Selecting the appropriate plastering materials for different sites.
- Protecting non-plastering surfaces with appropriate materials.
- Applying different plasters to exterior and interior surfaces.
- Fixing and repairing previous plastering work when necessary.
- Reporting any structural issues to the site foreman.
- Mixing and preparing mortar, plasters, and other finishes.
- Consulting with other contractors to ensure project deadlines are met.

## Skills required for this job (core competencies):

Communication	Resilience	Organisation	Teamwork
Problem Solving	Initiative	Creativity	Digital literacy

## Sectors in which Plasterers would normally work:

When a plastering job starts, you will prepare the area to be plastered to ensure that the first coat sticks to the material the wall is made of. Plaster is generally built up in two coats but where the wall is very uneven, three or even four coats may be needed. Fibrous plasterers work with plaster that has short lengths of fibre added to hold it together while you are working on it. You could make decorative plasterwork and panels by moulding and casting plaster in workshops. The finished pieces are then fixed on-site.

On historic buildings, specialist skills are often required, for example, to conserve existing plaster work which may be hundreds of years old. You will need to be fast – plaster dries out quickly so you need to make sure it is of high standard before it has dried. When it is dry, Dry lining involves building internal walls using plasterboard panels. Many plastering firms will also do dry lining work.

Plasterers work across the whole of the construction industry from new housing developments, shopping centres and stadia to restoration projects and sustainable buildings.

**Salary:** Plasterers are typically paid a starting wage of £14 000, this increases with experience, skilled Plasterers can expect to earn approximately £30 000 per year

**Working hours:** Working hours are usually around 37 - 40 hours per week. You may need to work some evenings and weekends.



## Qualifications to become a Plasterer:

You can get into this job through a college course or an apprenticeship:

**College:** You can do a college course that will teach you some of the skills needed for the job. Courses include: Level 1 Award in Construction Skills Plastering; Level 2 Diploma in Plastering; Level 3 Advanced Technical Diploma in Plastering

**Entry requirements -** You'll usually need: 2 or fewer GCSEs at grades 3 to 1 (D to G), or equivalent, for a level 1 course; 2 or more GCSEs at grades 9 to 3 (A\* to D), or equivalent, for a level 2 course and 4 or 5 GCSEs at grades 9 to 4 (A\* to C), or equivalent, for a level 3 course

**Apprenticeship:** You could get into this career by taking an intermediate apprenticeship in plastering. You'll do on-the-job training and spend time with a college or training provider.

## Essential skills you need to show:

- to be thorough and pay attention to detail
- knowledge of building and construction
- patience and the ability to remain calm in stressful situations
- the ability to work well with others
- the ability to work well with your hands
- the ability to use your initiative
- the ability to accept criticism and work well under pressure
- business management skills
- to be able to carry out basic tasks on a computer or hand-held device

**This job in the future:** The workforce is projected to decline by -2%, losing 2 900 jobs; in the same period, 50.4% of the workforce is likely to retire, creating 23 400 job opportunities.

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[www.successatschool.org](http://www.successatschool.org)

[www.nationalcareers.service.gov.uk](http://www.nationalcareers.service.gov.uk)

[www.prospects.ac.uk/jobs-and-work-experience/job-sectors](http://www.prospects.ac.uk/jobs-and-work-experience/job-sectors)

[www.ucas.com/careers-advice](http://www.ucas.com/careers-advice)

[www.kudos/casaid.co.uk/#/](http://www.kudos/casaid.co.uk/#/) (you all have a log on for this service)

[www.careersbox.co.uk](http://www.careersbox.co.uk) (careers videos)

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GAT careers links

<http://airhead.io/public/launchpads/XqbuOMJgb0OfqvMPCykZA>

