



Women CAN Build California

*Great career opportunities
for women in the building
and construction trades!*

Explore your options

- The first step is to find out which is the right craft for you. Plumber, electrician, laborer, painter, ironworker — these are just a few of the 26 crafts that are part of the building and construction trades. Some crafts require more analytical skills, others require more physical strength, and most require both!
- Check out programs in your area designed to prepare you for the challenges of apprenticeship. These programs vary widely, but generally last 6-12 weeks and offer work skills, provide an overview of the construction trades, and prepare you for meeting general apprenticeship entrance requirements. For information about programs in your area, contact BC3: 916-443-3302 or www.BuildingC3.com.
- Apply to enter an apprenticeship program. Apprenticeship provides training and paid “on-the-job learning” about the skilled trades. Contact your state or local Building Trades Council for information about programs near you or go to www.BuildingC3.com.

For more information

Building California Construction Careers (BC3)
www.BuildingC3.com • 916-443-3302
1225 8th Street, Suite 395 • Sacramento, CA 95814

This project of the State Building and Construction Trades Council is designed to help young people learn about opportunities in the construction trades and see this career as an outstanding alternative to a four-year degree.

Tradeswomen, Inc.
www.tradeswomen.org • 510-891-8773 x313
2485 West 14th St. • Oakland CA 94607

Tradeswomen, Inc. is a support and advocacy organization for women who work in the trades. With workshops, conferences and policy initiatives, Tradeswomen, Inc. strives to help women in blue-collar jobs and to increase and maintain the number of women in non-traditional work.

This brochure made possible by: Women’s Bureau, Region 9, Dept. of Labor • Building California Construction Careers, a project of the State Building and Construction Trades Council of California • Tradeswomen, Inc. • Sheet Metal and Air Conditioning Contractors of North America

Photos by Robert Gumpert





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Opportunities for women in high-wage, high-skill jobs

- Jobs in the construction trades offer women a chance for meaningful work with high wages.
- The Department of Labor estimates that the construction industry will require about 240,000 new workers each year for the next five years. However, only about 150,000 new workers will come into the trades, creating a continuing shortage of skilled workers.
- For every four people who leave the trades, by retirement or otherwise, only one new person is supplied by apprenticeship programs to enter the trades.
- The average age of today's construction worker is 47 years old.
- A woman can expect to earn 20-30% more in a construction career.



Getting into the building and construction trades

- The construction industry's urgent need for skilled workers creates opportunities for women to enter the field.
- To enter the building trades, you must start as an apprentice. Apprenticeship programs offer a positive alternative to a four-year college degree. They provide an opportunity to get paid while working and learning a life-long skill.
- Apprenticeship is a career ladder. An apprenticeship program provides paid job training with related classroom training and continuing education, often for college credit, while receiving great wages, health benefits, pensions and more.
- Apprentices in state-approved apprenticeship programs earn 40% of the prevailing wage in their area, to start. This is about \$12-15 per hour, plus benefits, when they begin the program. The rate increases each year until they complete training and become journeymen. The average craft journeyman makes about \$28 per hour in California, plus health and pension benefits. Many trades pay in excess of \$75 per hour when you work overtime.