Trade Opportunities

There are many opportunities and pathways available through the trades. Each trade below has its own apprenticeship program that HIRE360 can help you develop a pathway to.

**AUTO MECHANICS**
From changing oil to rebuilding diesel engines, auto mechanics work to maintain cars, trucks and automotive equipment. Mechanics have a diverse range of specializations, from working on passenger vehicles to maintaining fleets of trucks or buses.

**BOILERMAKERS**
Boilermakers are industrial blacksmiths who fabricate steel to build and maintain liquid pressure systems, from large-scale industrial and utility machinery to water boilers in schools or hospitals. Boilermakers erect complex systems and work in diverse environments. Welding is an important skill in this trade.

**BRICKLAYERS**
Bricklayers and workers in related trades install and repair brick, stone, tile, marble, ceramic, concrete and other masonry. These trades often combine skill and careful planning with craftsmanship to build structurally sound products and create architectural art. They also tuck point masonry and build fireplaces, industrial furnaces and sewers.

**CARPENTERS**
Though known for working with wood, carpenters perform a variety of trades using different materials, skills and specializations. Construction carpenters frame buildings using wood and metal. Some carpenters focus on a specific craft, such as flooring or cabinet making. They often use pile drivers to help lay foundations for buildings.

**ELECTRICIANS**
Electricians are responsible for assembling, installing and maintaining electrical equipment and wiring. Electricians can work in construction, installing new electrical systems or maintaining electrical systems, especially in large buildings or convention centers. Electricians may also specialize in telecommunications, installing and maintaining security, telephone, voice, data and fiber optic systems.
HEAT AND FROST INSULATORS
Heat and frost insulators install insulation, fireproofing and soundproofing to ensure energy efficiency, safety and functionality in buildings and industrial settings. They process plumbing and piping systems, as well as heating, cooling and ventilation systems.

IRON WORKERS
Iron workers construct bridges and large-scale buildings using steel columns and girders; build the rebar structures that support concrete; and construct other metal structures such as windows, doors, catwalks, gates and fencing.

LABORERS
Laborers perform a variety of crafts, working in building construction and highway infrastructure. Laborers have diverse skill sets, and work to repair roads, lay pipe, construct scaffolds and place concrete. Laborers work on many types of projects such as skyscrapers, underground tunnels, highways and bridges.

OPERATING ENGINEERS
Operating engineers operate and maintain heavy construction equipment, such as cranes, hoists, and bulldozers. Operating engineers work in a wide variety of environments, especially building and road construction. They erect steel, pour concrete, pave roads and excavate earth. Operating engineers can also work in other specialties such as landscape construction, material testing and more.

PAINTERS
Painters and drywall finishers build, surface, paint and decorate walls inside and outside buildings. Workers in these trades build and finish walls that are structurally sound and make them visually pleasing using paint, wallpaper, fabrics, vinyl and other materials. Painters are artists and artisans, often working in commercial environments such as hotels, restaurants, and offices. Painters also work in industrial settings, applying coatings to protect machinery from corrosion, wear-and-tear or water damage.

PIPEFITTERS
Pipefitters work in industrial settings building systems that deliver gas, steam, chemicals and other necessary components that keep factories and manufacturing plants running. Pipefitters work outdoors on projects on a massive scale. This highly-technical craft allows many opportunities for specialization, including working in hospitals, on state-of-the-art HVAC systems or in construction.

PLUMBERS
Plumbers work with all types of plumbing and piping. They work in construction, crafting piping to provide water to buildings. Most workers in the plumbers’ union build and maintain new plumbing systems in large-scale buildings across Chicago, rather than working to maintain leaky sinks in residences. Plumbers also help construct state-of-the-art, energy-efficient systems in new buildings.

ROOFERS
Roofers are responsible for building roofs of every type, from shingles and tiles on residential buildings to hot coal tar pitch, rubber and thermoplastics on commercial buildings and skyscrapers. Working with a variety of materials and technologies, roofers help build, maintain and protect buildings of all shapes and sizes.

SHEET METAL WORKERS
Sheet metal workers fabricate, install, repair and alter products built with sheet metal. This can include metal roofing, ventilation equipment and architectural and decorative sheet metal, as well as specialty fabrication. Many sheet metal workers build, install and maintain HVAC systems.

SPRINKLER FITTERS
Sprinkler fitters install, maintain and repair fire protection systems in large-scale buildings. Sprinkler fitters are responsible for protecting both life and property and installing fixed plumbing systems that ensure buildings comply with fire codes.