

7252 Steamfitters, Pipefitters and Sprinkler System Installers

Steamfitters and pipefitters lay out, assemble, fabricate, maintain, troubleshoot and repair piping systems carrying water, steam, chemicals and fuel in heating, cooling, lubricating and other process piping systems. Sprinkler system installers fabricate, install, test, maintain and repair water, foam, carbon dioxide and dry chemical sprinkler systems in buildings for fire protection purposes. Steamfitters, pipefitters and sprinkler system installers are employed in maintenance departments of factories, plants and similar establishments, and by pipefitting and sprinkler system contractors, or they may be self-employed.

Example Titles

Apprentice Pipefitter-Steamfitter
Fire Protection Mechanic
Fire Sprinkler Fitter
Marine Pipefitter
Pipefitter
Sprinkler System Fitter
Sprinkler System Installer
Sprinkler System Installer Apprentice
Steamfitter

Main duties

Steamfitters and pipefitters perform some or all of the following duties:
Read and interpret drawings, blueprints and specifications to determine layout requirements
Cut openings for pipe in walls, floors and ceilings using hand or power tools or machines
Select type and size of pipe required
Measure, cut, thread and bend pipe to required shape using hand and power tools
Weld, braze, cement, solder and thread joints to join pipes and fabricate sections of piping system
Install supports, valves, piping and control systems
Test system for leaks using testing equipment
Clean and maintain pipe units and fittings and flush system
Remove and replace worn components and reactivate system
May prepare cost estimates for clients.
Sprinkler system installers perform some or all of the following duties:
Read and interpret drawings, specifications and fire codes to determine layout requirements
Install clamps, brackets and hangers to support piping system and sprinkler and fire protection equipment, using hand and power tools

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Select, measure, cut, ream and thread pipe, install sprinkler heads and mount prepared pipe in supports
Join pipes and piping sections using soldering and welding equipment
Connect piping system to water mains, supply tanks, pumps, compressors and control equipment
Installs valves, alarms and associated equipment
Test system for leaks using air or liquid pressure equipment
Service and repair sprinkler system
May prepare cost estimates for clients.

Employment requirements

Completion of secondary school is usually required.
Completion of a four- to five-year apprenticeship program
or
A combination of over five years of work experience in the trade and some high school, college or industry courses in steamfitting, pipefitting or sprinkler system installation is usually required to be eligible for trade certification.
Steamfitter-pipefitter trade certification is compulsory in Quebec, Ontario, Alberta and British Columbia and available, but voluntary, in all other provinces and the territories.
Sprinkler system installer trade certification is compulsory in Quebec and British Columbia and available, but voluntary, in all other provinces and territories.
Interprovincial trade certification (Red Seal) is also available to qualified steamfitters-pipefitters and sprinkler system installers.

Additional information

Progression to supervisory positions is possible with experience.
Red Seal trade certification allows for interprovincial mobility.
Classified elsewhere

Gas Fitters (7253)

Plumbers (7251)

Supervisors of steamfitters, pipefitters and sprinkler system installers (in 7213 Contractors and Supervisors, Pipefitting Trades)

Other Titles

Apprentice Fitter, Sprinkler Systems
Apprentice Pipefitter
Apprentice Pipefitter-Steamfitter
Apprentice Sprinkler System Fitter
Apprentice Steamfitter
Fire Prevention and Automatic Suppression Systems Installer

Pipefitter
Pipefitter - Shipbuilding
Pipefitter, Railway Cars and Locomotives
Pipefitter, Turbines
Pipefitter, Welding
Pipefitter-Steamfitter
Railway Car and Locomotive Pipefitter

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Fire Protection Mechanic	Ship Pipefitter
Fire Protection Piping Installer	Ship Steamfitter
Fire Sprinkler Fitter	Sprinkler and Fire Protection Installer
Fitter, Sprinkler System	Sprinkler Fitter
Installer, Fire Prevention and Automatic	Sprinkler System Fitter
Suppression Systems	Sprinkler System Installer
Installer, Fire Protection Piping System	Sprinkler System Installer (non-construction)
Installer, Sprinkler Systems	Sprinkler System Installer Apprentice
Installer, Sprinklers and Fire Protection	Steam Heating Installer
Systems	Steam Main Servicer
Journeyman/woman Pipefitter	Steam Pipefitter
Journeyman/woman Sprinkler System Installer	Steamfitter
Journeyman/woman Steamfitter-Pipefitter	Steamfitter - Shipbuilding
Maintenance Pipefitter	Steamfitter, Ships
Marine Pipefitter	Steamfitter-Pipefitter
Marine Steamfitter	Steamfitter/Pipefitter (non-construction)
Pipe Installer, Radiator	Turbine Pipefitter

Courtesy of NOC