



Occupational profile



Sheetmetal trades worker

Summary Of Occupation

Sheet metal workers use drawings and specifications to determine materials and tools needed to fabricate various products. They work with thin sheet metal such as steel, aluminium, copper or brass. They use a variety of hand and power tools to cut, shape, bend and join the sheet metal to form the final product. They may use hammers, grinders or cutting torches to cut and shape the material; then join using bolts, rivets or welding. They may also be involved in finishing the final product by filing or polishing. Increasingly they are involved in the setting up and use of Computer Numerically Controlled (CNC) machines.

Knowledge Skills and Attributes

A Sheet metal worker needs:

- to be physically fit
- good hand-eye coordination
- to be able to handle a variety of materials, tools and machines
- to be interested in computer programmable machinery
- to enjoy technical activities
- to be able to work individually and/or in a team.

Working Conditions

Sheet metal workers may work in an environment that is hot, noisy and dusty, usually in a workshop or production area. They must be safety-conscious and will usually have to wear protective clothing and equipment. They may be required to stand all day, or work in confined spaces or at heights.

Sheet metal workers work 38 hours per week; this could be normal hours or shift work. If employed by a mining company, for example in the Pilbara, they may work on a Fly In/Fly Out basis.

Salary Details

On average, sheetmetal trades workers can expect to earn between \$1 000 and \$1 249 per week (\$52 000 and \$64 999 per year), depending on the organisation they work for, and their level of experience.

Tools and Technologies

Sheet metal workers need to become proficient with hand and power tools relevant to the trade. They may also be involved in the programming, setting up and use of Computer Numerically Controlled (CNC) machines.

Education and Training Entrance Requirements

To become a qualified sheetmetal trades worker, you usually need to complete an apprenticeship. The sheetmetal worker (first class) apprenticeship usually takes 48 months to complete and is available as a school-based apprenticeship.