

BuildCONNECTICUT

Sheet Metal Worker

The **sheet metal worker works from sketches, blueprints, or verbal instructions** necessary to make products, and then installs a wide variety of articles made from sheets of steel, aluminum, copper, and other materials. They *apply shop mathematics* to lay out the work to be performed. A sheet metal worker **uses hand or power-operated tools** such as shears, breaks (for bending), punch and forming presses, and rolling and crimping machines to cut, bend, and shape the metal. **They build** the heating, air conditioning, ventilation, and exhaust system ducts in commercial and industrial buildings and homes. These workers make a very wide variety of metal fittings and equipment for the construction industry.

Working Conditions

Sheet metal workers do a great deal more shop work than other construction trades. They usually spend most of the day at one work site when a project is in progress, moving to another site when it is completed. Sheet metal workers must always be careful because of the tools and sharp edges of the metal with which they work.

Aptitude and Interest

Those interested in becoming sheet metal workers should enjoy working with their hands. They must be able to follow instructions and work closely from shop drawings and blueprints.

Training

To become a **skilled sheet metal worker** training is essential and trade licenses are required.

- ↗ learning-by-working;
- ↗ company on-the-job training programs;
- ↗ trade or vocational/technical schools;
- ↗ unilaterally (management or labor) sponsored trainee programs;
- ↗ through registered, labor-management apprenticeship programs;
- ↗ or a combination of the above.

It is generally accepted that the more formalized training programs give more comprehensive skill training.

Recommended high school courses include English, algebra, geometry, general sciences, and mechanical drawing.

Licenses: *Connecticut Occupational Licensing Regulations require a minimum number of on-the-job training years.*
[Sheet Metal Licenses](#)

Wages

**Hourly: \$35.74 + Benefits: \$33.22

**Wage and compensation information based on CT Department of Labor data reported as of July 1, 2015.

***Apprentices are paid on a graduated scale as their skill and experience increases.