

BuildCONNECTICUT

Painter and Paperhanger

These are **two separate skills**, but **many craftsmen learn to do both**. The methods of preparation and application are different, but both jobs are concerned with covering walls and surfaces.

Painters prepare surfaces and apply paint, varnish, enamel, lacquer, and similar materials to wood, metal, or masonry buildings using brushes, rollers or a spray gun. Painters also mix pigments, oils, and other ingredients to obtain the required color and consistency.

Paperhangers also prepare surfaces, measure and cut wall coverings to size, paste, position and match designs, and work the air bubbles out to leave a smooth surface. A wide variety of specialized tools are used as well as a variety of fabric, vinyl, or other materials.

Working Conditions

Painters work on floors, walls, ceilings, and equipment in interiors, and outside on everything from foundations to water-towers and flag-poles. Odors from paints, thinners, or shellac are usually present. Painters may work alone or in crews. **Painters and paperhangers** stand, stoop, turn, crouch, crawl, kneel and frequently climb scaffolds and ladders. Safety in this occupation depends on caution and safe practices while working.

Aptitude and Interest

Applicants should be able to work with numbers and work well with their hands. To qualify for some jobs the ability to distinguish between colors might be necessary.

Training

To become a **skilled painter or paperhanger** training is essential.

- ↵ 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 art, chemistry, general shop, interior decorating, math, and woodwork finishing.

Wages

**Hourly: \$31.02	+	Benefits: \$18.55 [Painter]
**Hourly: \$31.52	+	Benefits: \$18.55 [Paperhanger]

**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.