



Pipefitter/Steamfitter

Pipefitters work from blueprints to determine the types and placement location of piping, valves, and equipment to be installed. Pipefitters assemble, install, and maintain pipes to carry liquids, steam, compressed air, gases, and fluids needed for processing, manufacturing, heating, and cooling. They must be able to change and repair pipe systems and do all types of pipe welding and joining. They measure, cut, bend, and thread pipes, joining sections together as necessary using elbows, "T" fittings, or other couplings. Pipefitters install and repair high pressure pipe systems, especially in industrial and commercial establishments. After a pipe system is installed, pipefitters check for leaks by forcing liquid steam or air through it under pressure. Tools used include wrenches, reamers, drills, hammers, chisels, saws, gas torches, gas or electric welding equipment, pipe cutters, benders, and threaders.

Working Conditions

Pipe work is active and sometimes strenuous. The work is subject to hot and cold temperatures and fumes. Frequently it is necessary to stand for prolonged periods on ladders or on scaffolds. Occasionally pipefitters must operate in cramped or uncomfortable positions. The work may be indoors or outdoors in unfinished sections of new buildings.

Aptitude and Interest

Applicants should be able to understand detailed written and verbal instructions. They must enjoy working with their hands and working outdoors. Also, they must be able to solve arithmetic problems quickly and accurately.

Training

To become a **pipefitter/steamfitter** 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, general math, algebra, geometry, trigonometry, general science, physics, and mechanical drawing.

Licenses: *Connecticut Occupational Licensing Regulations require a minimum number of on-the-job training years.*

Wages

**Hourly: \$47.03 + Benefits: \$34.05

**Wage and compensation information based on CT Department of Labor data reported as of July 1, 2022.

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

