I want to start my Career in...
Construction and Building

What will I do?
Construction workers are in charge of building roads, bridges, buildings, and pipelines. Construction requires hands-on work and individuals may be required to operate heavy machinery.

What are the important facts?

Job Growth
There will always be a need for Construction Laborers. They play an important role in society because they keep our roads, sidewalks, buildings, and bridges safe for the population to use.

In California, Construction workers are expected to have 5,310 new job openings between 2014 and 2024. This means there is a 26% employment increase—this level of employment increase means there will be lots of new jobs in the field.

Wage/Salary
In San Jose the average hourly wage for Construction Laborers is $20.33, with an annual salary of $42,290. In Silicon Valley, the living wage for a single person is $16.00 an hour.

Required Training
Construction Laborers are highly recommended to receive training either through a Community College or through a Trade Program.

What are typical tasks?
• Construction Laborers prepare construction sites by removing dangerous debris, and possible danger hazards to people walking by.
• Help repair roads and sidewalks when they begin to crack or become unsafe to drive or walk on.
• Operate heavy machinery, such as jack hammers and cranes.
• Fill trenches and holes
• Fix any roadside dangers.

What would make this career a great fit for me?
• Able to be on your feet for long periods of time.
• Have a passion for doing hands-on labor.
• Enjoy operating heavy machinery.
• Have strong written and verbal communication skills.
• Able to work on team
• Able to follow directions given by a supervisor.

Where can I get the training I need?
• Cal Apprenticeship Program
• San Jose City College
• Trades-Orientation Program

I want to start my career in...

Construction and Building

### Step 1
Learn the skills employers say you need. Begin your education.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Education &amp; Training: Construction and Building</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Trades Orientation or Community College</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Certificate of Completion in Construction Technology.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• San Jose City College</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Trades Orientation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Apprenticeships</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Requires 1-5 years of training as a Construction Apprentice. After the five years, students can become certified in Construction and gain Journeyman Status.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Santa Clara County Trades</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Career Pathways for Construction and Building

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Entry Level Positions:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Trades Assistant</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individuals need 6 months-1 year of education to work as a Trades Assistant in Construction.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Employers**
- Any Construction Labor Company
- San Jose Construction
- South Bay Turner Construction

**Labor Market Information**
- In San Jose the average hourly wage for Construction Laborers is $20.33, with an annual salary of $42,290.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mid-Level Positions:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Journeyman</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individuals need 1-5 years of work experience and need to complete the Apprenticeship program in order to move up to Journeyman Status.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Employers**
- Any Construction Labor Company
- San Jose Construction
- Kent Construction

**Labor Market Information**
- The average hourly wage in San Jose for Construction Managers is $58.39, with an annual salary of $121,450.

In order to advance from Entry Level to Mid-Level, it takes 2-3 years of work experience in an entry-level position, plus higher education and training, Apprentice or Bachelor's degree.

These are not the exact career paths individuals must follow. This is meant to serve as an example.
What are the Skills Employers look for in Construction Workers?

Employers are looking for someone who:

- Has completed some form of Postsecondary training. This can be a Certificate of Completion in Construction or a Cal Apprenticeship program.
- Has basic Math and English skills.
- Is able to read basic blueprints.
- Has a passion for working in the construction field.
- Is able to stand on your feet for long periods of time.
- Understands basic safety skills when working with heavy machinery.
- Is trustworthy and reliable.
- Is willing to work in somewhat dangerous environments, such as freeways or roads.
- Is able to work on a team and support team members when they need it.
- Is capable of handing the physical labor that can go along with working in Construction.
- Is able to follow directions given by management.
- Willing to be flexible while in the field. Sometimes instructions and projects change throughout the day.
- Is willing to work overtime if needed.

Employers may also refer to me as:

- Construction Worker
- Maintenance and Repair Worker, General
- Maintenance

Moving up: Construction Workers

Below are a few examples of how you can eventually move up in your career. These career advancements are options for when you are ready to advance from entry-level to mid-advanced level positions.

Example Career Ladder: