

BuildND.org

Painter

Construction & Maintenance

Job Description

Paint walls, equipment, buildings, bridges, and other structural surfaces, using brushes, rollers, and spray guns. May remove old paint to prepare surface prior to painting. May mix colors or oils to obtain desired color or consistency.

Work Conditions

Painting requires a lot of climbing, bending, kneeling, and stretching. Most industrial painters work outside, almost always in dry, warm weather. Those who paint bridges or buildings may be exposed to extreme heights and uncomfortable positions.

How to Become a Painter

Although most painters learn their trade on the job, some learn through an apprenticeship.

- **Education**

There are no specific education requirements to become a painter, but high school courses in English, mathematics, shop, and blueprint reading can be useful. Also, some 2-year technical schools offer courses affiliated with union and contractor organization apprenticeships. Credits earned as part of an apprenticeship program usually count toward an associate's degree.

- **Training**

- Some painters learn their trade through a 3- or 4-year apprenticeship, although a few local unions have additional time requirements.
 - For each year of the program, apprentices must have at least 144 hours of technical instruction and 2,000 hours of paid on-the-job training.
 - Through technical instruction, apprentices learn how to use and care for tools and equipment, how to prepare surfaces, mix and match paint, and read blueprints; application techniques; characteristics of different finishes; wood finishing; and safety practices.
- After completing an apprenticeship program, painters are considered journey workers and may perform tasks on their own.
- Unions and contractors sponsor apprenticeship programs. The basic qualifications to enter an apprenticeship program are as follows:
 - Minimum age of 18
 - High school diploma or equivalent
 - Physically able to do the work
- Although the vast majority of workers learn their trade on the job or through an apprenticeship, some contractors offer their own training program for new workers.



Associated General Contractors of North Dakota
22 North Second Street, PO Box 1624, Bismarck, ND 58502
(800) 472-2120, (701) 223-2770
www.agcnd.org



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- **Licenses, Certifications, and Registrations**

Those interested in industrial painting can earn several certifications from the National Association of Corrosion Engineers, also known as [NACE International](#).

- The most common certification for construction painters is called Protective Coating Specialist.
- Courses range from 1 day to several weeks, depending on the certification program and specialty.
- Applicants also must meet work experience requirements.

- **Important Qualities**

- **Color vision**

Painters must be able to identify and differentiate between subtle differences in color of paints.

- **Customer-service skills**

Workers who paint the inside and outside of residential homes often interact with clients. They must communicate with the client, listen to what the client wants, and select colors and application techniques that satisfy the client.

- **Detail oriented**

Painters must be precise when creating or painting edges, because minor flaws can be noticeable.

- **Physical stamina**

Painters should be able to stay physically active for many hours, because they spend most of the day standing with their arms extended.

Wage Information:

The table below shows the estimated Employment Wage Statistics for individuals in North Dakota employed as Construction and Maintenance Painters in 2013.

Rate Type	Entry level	Mean	Experienced
Annual Wage	\$24,920	\$37,160	\$43,270
Hourly Wage	\$11.98	\$17.86	\$20.80

For more information [click here](#).



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