

# BuildND.org

## Roofer

### Job Description

Cover roofs of structures with shingles, slate, asphalt, aluminum, wood, or related materials. May spray roofs, sidings, and walls with material to bind, seal, insulate, or soundproof sections of structures.

### Work Conditions

Roofing work can be hot and physically demanding. It involves heavy lifting, as well as climbing and bending. Overtime may be required to finish a job, especially during busier summer months.

### How to Become a Roofer

Although most roofers learn on the job, some learn their trade through an apprenticeship program. There are no specific education requirements for roofers.

- **Education**

- Although there are no specific education requirements for roofers, high school courses in math, shop, mechanical drawing, and blueprint reading are considered helpful.
- Technical schools that offer courses related to roofing may be available in a few areas.

- **Training**

- Most on-the-job training programs consist of instruction in which experienced workers teach new workers how to use roofing tools, equipment, machines, and materials.
  - Trainees begin with tasks such as carrying equipment and material and erecting scaffolds and hoists.
  - Within 2 or 3 months, they are taught to measure, cut, and fit roofing materials and, later, to lay asphalt or fiberglass shingles.
  - Because some roofing materials, such as solar tiles, are used infrequently, it can take several years to gain experience on all types of roofing.
  - As training progresses, assignments become more complex.
- Some roofers learn through a 3-year apprenticeship.
  - For each year of the program, apprentices must have at least 144 hours of related technical training and 2,000 hours of paid on-the-job training.
  - Apprentices learn about roofing and construction basics, such as blueprint reading, mathematics, building code requirements, and safety and first-aid practices.
  - After completing an apprenticeship program, roofers are considered journey workers who can perform tasks on their own.
- Several groups sponsor apprenticeship programs, including unions and contractor associations. 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



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- **Important Qualities**

- **Balance**  
Roofing is often done on steep slopes at significant heights. Because of this, workers should have excellent balance to avoid falling.
- **Physical stamina**  
Roofers must have endurance to perform strenuous duties throughout the day. They may spend hours on their feet, bending and stooping—often in hot temperatures—with few breaks.
- **Physical strength**  
Roofers often lift and carry heavy materials. Some roofers, for example, must carry bundles of shingles that weigh 60 pounds or more.
- **Unafraid of heights**  
Because work is often done at significant heights, roofers must not fear working far above the ground.

**Wage Information:**

The table below shows the estimated Employment Wage Statistics for individuals in North Dakota employed as Roofers in 2013.

Rate Type	Entry level	Mean	Experienced
Annual Wage	\$25,650	\$32,350	\$35,700
Hourly Wage	\$12.33	\$15.55	\$17.17

For more information [click here](#).



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