



Job Preview – Construction Labourer Role

When traveling through a city or a small rural community, do you ever wonder how many people were involved in building the various structures you pass by? From skyscrapers to shopping centers, schools to hospitals, factories to gas plants, apartments to houses - the construction industry is massive, and includes the construction of commercial, industrial, and residential buildings, as well as engineering projects like roads, bridges and utility systems. There are many different employment opportunities available within the construction industry, ranging from unskilled labour or “helper jobs” to highly skilled positions that require specialized training and education. Some examples include construction labourers, skilled trades people, general contractors, engineers, construction managers, and project managers. This job preview focuses on the role of a Construction Labourer. We'll be highlighting some of the common tasks performed, as well as some of the challenges of the job to help you gain a better understanding about this important position.

Construction Labourers work in all fields of construction and are responsible for performing a wide variety of physical tasks on a construction site. These tasks support the set-up, ongoing maintenance, and tear down of a work site once a project is complete. Key responsibilities of the role include unloading building materials, tools and equipment, and taking them to the appropriate location on the work site. Other activities include removing rubble, garbage and debris from the site, installing and removing barricades around the site, and directing traffic at or near the site to ensure the safety of pedestrians, motorists, and work crews.

Additional tasks include digging holes and trenches, installing and removing temporary structures such as concrete forms, scaffolding, ramps, and catwalks, and mixing, pouring and leveling new concrete. Construction Labourers also assist skilled trade workers, such as carpenters, electricians, plumbers, roofers, and bricklayers, as required during specific phases of a project.

This position requires working with others and being part of a team. Tasks may vary from day to day depending on the weather and stage of construction. Typically, no formal academic requirements or qualifications are needed to perform this role, and on-the-job training is provided. You will be able to see work demonstrated and learn new skills by performing hands on tasks and activities.

There are some challenges to the Construction Labour job. The work environment can be extremely loud and fast-paced, with many different types of workers, machinery, and activities occurring on the site at any given time. You will be required to wear protective equipment such as a hard hat, steel-toed boots, earplugs and safety glasses. The work is also strenuous and physically demanding, with a lot of lifting, hauling and handling of tools and heavy equipment. You will be on your feet all day in varying temperatures and weather conditions.

Some days, your work may be halted due to extreme wind, rain, and cold, and other days you may be required work overtime to take advantage of good weather and keep the project on-schedule. You will be required to stay focused during your entire shift, and effectively communicate with team members to ensure tasks are performed accurately and in accordance with safety procedures and standards.

The role of a Construction Labourer provides an opportunity to develop basic on-the-job skills and construction related knowledge that can be applied to many other careers and professions within the construction industry. For example, you may consider pursuing an apprentice program related to a particular skilled trade to become a professional journey person in that trade. Carpenters, electricians, plumbers, painters, welders, and pipefitters are just a few examples of skilled trades. Or you may be interesting pursuing administrative jobs related to



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construction and project management, health and safety, or that specialize in the growing use of cutting edge technology to support construction projects like Building Information modeling and virtual reality applications.

The demand for Construction Labourers is high and anticipated to grow in the coming years as older generations of workers retire. Everywhere you look, new buildings are going up, and existing buildings are being remodeled and renovated to stay current. So, if you like working outdoors, enjoy performing physical tasks, and are interested in exploring a career in the trades, a Construction Labourer role might be a good fit for you and a great place to start your employment journey!