

CAREERS IN BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION

Concrete Worker

Concrete workers place, spread, compact, finish and cure concrete for buildings, roads, tunnels, bridges and marine structures, using hand tools, vibrators, pumps, trowelling machinery and other power tools. For most jobs, concrete is mixed at a pre-mix concrete supplier's factory and delivered to the site in a pre-mix concrete truck. There is a growing industry in pre-cast concrete, where concrete elements are cast and cured in factories and then transported to the site for erection. Concrete workers may perform tasks including:

- ◆ mixing cement, gravel, sand and water etc to manufacture concrete on-site;
- ◆ moving concrete into position by means of a concrete pump;
- ◆ Placing concrete into the formwork, making sure that it is spread and levelled, then compacted using vibrators;
- ◆ operating paving and trowelling machines to float, trowel and polish the surface of large areas of concrete;
- ◆ cutting joints into hardened concrete; and
- ◆ mixing and applying pigments when a coloured surface is required.

Concrete workers may specialise as concrete finishers or concrete slab layers. They may also work in tilt-up construction, which involves laying concrete and finish flat on site. Concrete workers usually work outside on construction sites which may be dusty and noisy. Much of their time is spent standing or kneeling and they may also have to work at heights or underground in tunnels. Concrete workers may be self-employed; they travel from job to job and usually begin work very early in the morning.

Personal Requirements

- ◆ Physical fitness and strength as the work involved heavy lifting.

Education and Training

There are no specific educational requirements for entry to this occupation. Training is generally provided on-the-job in this field. There are no entry requirements for these courses.

- ◆ Short Courses

