

GET IN TO

HOME

BUILDING

IT COULD BE RIGHT UP  
YOUR STREET

HOUSE  
BUILDING  
CAREERS



[HouseBuildingCareers.org.uk](http://HouseBuildingCareers.org.uk) #SkillsforLife

# A CAREER TO BE PROUD OF

The process of building a home is very complicated and involves many different stages. This means that home builders have a lot of departments that do very different jobs. This booklet will tell you more about the different careers and routes into home building that are available to you.



## Why home building is for me?

Home building is so much more than just building homes!

We will help to develop you as a person while you help to develop the homes that the country needs. Home building is a unique industry to work in, one in which you will be given the chance to really achieve something.

It's the sort of achievement that you can look at and touch. It's something we see through from start to finish, from a piece of land with nothing on it to a thriving community where families grow, and people live – and you can play your part!

From flats in cities to cottages in the country; we build the high-quality homes people and families across the country want and need. But it's more than just about providing homes for a nation that desperately needs them; it's also very rewarding for you.



“Look into what it's all about because there's a preconception of what the construction industry involves. There are so many roles available for you, so look into the options and routes you could pursue.”

**BARBARA AKINKUNMI**  
Technical Design Graduate

## A job in home building is unique, have you got what it takes?

As an industry, we're always changing and adapting, and that means you'll have to as well. We're looking for ambitious young people who want to challenge themselves to achieve great things. If you think that sounds like you, then let us give you the tools you'll need to make it happen.

Working for a home builder will put you at the heart of an industry that is vital to the nation's economy, and more importantly to the quality of people's lives. Choosing a career in home building will give you more than just the chance to build something.

You'll be working as part of a team with like-minded people who are committed, ambitious and prepared to push themselves at every opportunity. You'll be in an environment that encourages you to think, to challenge yourself and others, and to ultimately work together to help drive the industry forward.

Building a home means building something for life. Choosing a career in home building is no different.



“Being on site and getting my hands dirty is what I like best. I have made a lot of friends over the last few years who have made the course enjoyable, while also teaching me all the different aspects of the home building industry”

**RYAN MCLAUGHLIN**  
Apprentice Carpenter and Joiner

**“I LOVE THAT I AM SO ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN A WIDER PROCESS THAT BRINGS HOMES TO PEOPLE THAT NEED SOMEWHERE TO LIVE AND IN THE PLACES THEY WANT TO LIVE”**

**ROSIE PENISTON**  
Planner



### What do we do?

As you have probably guessed, the main job of a home builder is to build homes!

But this is just a part of what we do. Home building is not as simple as it sounds, and the process of transforming an empty piece of land into a new, modern, thriving community is a long and complex one.

This means we employ a wide variety of people who all play hugely important parts and are key to our ability to deliver high quality new homes.

There are so many opportunities when working for a home builder, and the job can be exciting and very rewarding. But most importantly, it means you can help build homes that people need and are happy and proud to buy and live in.



*“I have always been passionate about the environment and sustainable development; and wanted these interests to shape my career.”*

**OLIVIA WARD**  
Sustainability Coordinator

# EXPLORE A HOME BUILDING SITE!

MODERN HOME BUILDING INVOLVES MANY PEOPLE WITH LOTS OF DIFFERENT SKILLS AND TALENTS.

OVER THE NEXT FEW PAGES, EXPLORE A MODERN BUILDING SITE AND DISCOVER SOME OF THE JOBS THAT COULD BE WAITING FOR YOU IN HOME BUILDING!

## STEP 1 LAND

### PLANNER

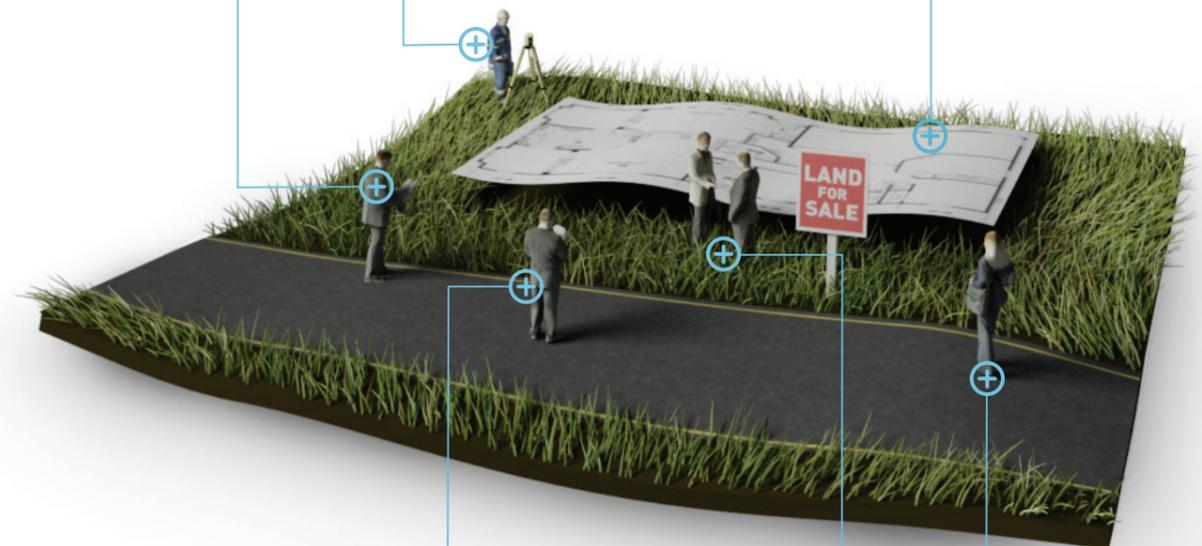
As a planner you would provide advice on the buying of land by the home builder to help the company decide if it is a suitable area on which to build homes.

### ENGINEER

Engineers play a central role in the design and development of new homes. They produce the drawings that explain in detail the engineering elements of a home and the external infrastructure that is required. But their work does not end at the design stage. They provide technical support throughout the home building process, and their tasks will include managing the excavation work, laying domestic drainage, and carrying out pre-pour inspection and testing of concrete.

### ARCHITECT

Architects are involved with the design of new homes. They can work on individual buildings or on large development schemes, and can be responsible for the design of the surrounding landscape and spaces, such as the estate layout.



### QUANTITY SURVEYOR

A quantity surveyor (or QS) manages all costs relating to the build, from the initial calculations to the final figures. As part of this, quantity surveyors seek to minimise costs and enhance value for money, while still achieving high standards and quality. A quantity surveyor may work in an office or on site and is involved in a project from the start, preparing estimates and costs of the work. During the build, they also have to keep track of any changes to the site that may affect costs and create reports to show profitability.

### BUYER

Buyers are responsible for ensuring that the materials required for construction projects are provided to schedule and according to projected budgets. They have a vital part to play in helping ensure the profitability of contracts since they are responsible for ensuring the most cost-effective and appropriate materials are purchased.

### LAND BUYER

Land buyers source and acquire development sites. They have a good knowledge of planning legislation and an excellent knowledge of the residential market in general.

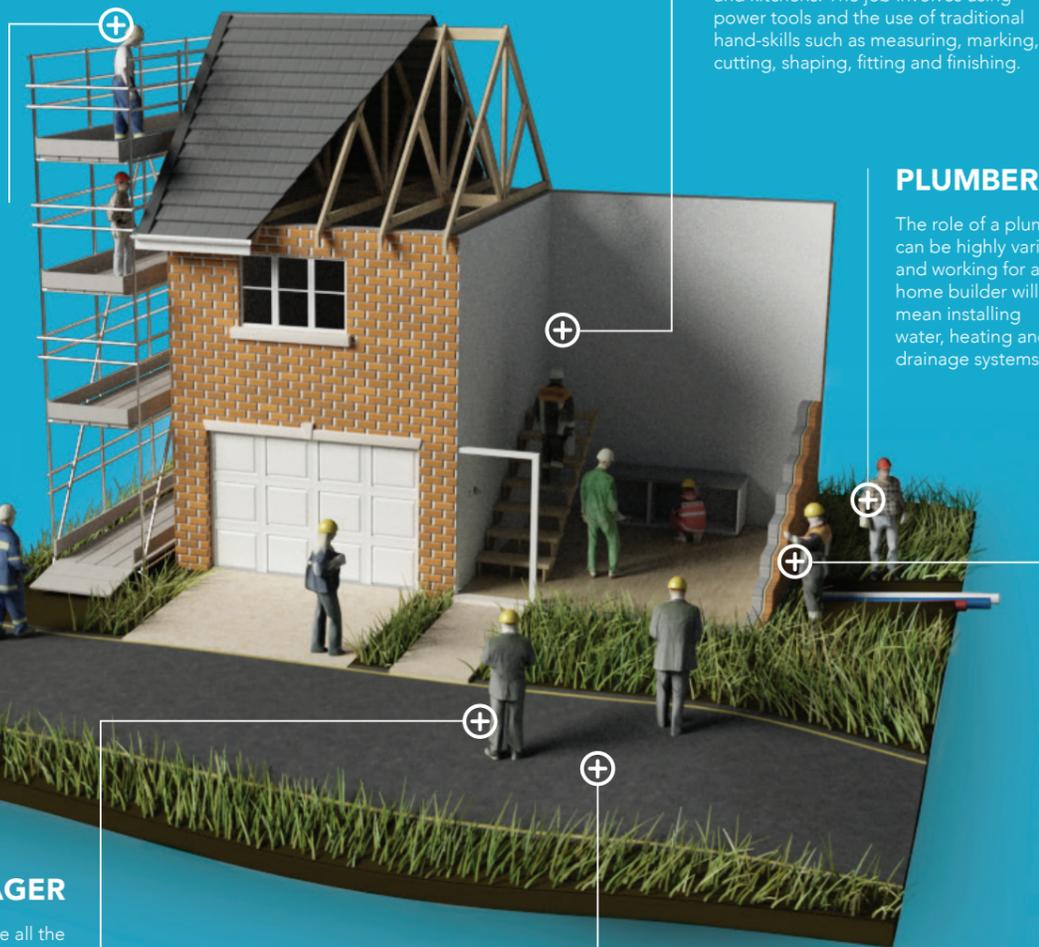
# STEP 2 CONSTRUCTION

These are just a selection of roles involved in building a home. Other trade roles include painter and decorator, plasterer and dry liner, and wall and floor tiler. There are also many technical roles such as designers and inspectors.

For more information about the different roles available, visit <https://housebuildingcareers.org.uk/>

## ROOF SLATER AND TILER

Roof Slaters and Tilers put roofs on the homes we build. It's a skilled job that requires specific training and working safely is very important too, as working at heights is dangerous if you're not properly trained to work in this environment.



## CARPENTER

Carpenters work with wood, mainly in the structure of a building - the roof, floor, and walls. This can include floor joists, floorboards, roof trusses and wall partitions. They may also fit staircases, doors, skirting boards, cupboards and kitchens. The job involves using power tools and the use of traditional hand-skills such as measuring, marking, cutting, shaping, fitting and finishing.

## PLUMBER

The role of a plumber can be highly varied, and working for a home builder will mean installing water, heating and drainage systems.

## SITE MANAGER

Site managers supervise all the workers on a site, whether they're directly employed by the company, or sub-contracted in to do a specific job. They're responsible for checking, setting out and calling off materials, and working to a given programme. They are also responsible for ensuring the site operates within given time, cost, safety and quality standards.

## GROUNDWORKER

Groundworkers and plant operators prepare a site prior to and during the building process. They ensure that the important infrastructure is completed, and that every plot and dwelling on a housing development has adequate foundations, drainage, water and electrical connections. The team will also work on driveways, paths, roads and public open spaces on a development.

## BRICKLAYER

Bricklayers are responsible for building homes using bricks and mortar and are the bread and butter of the home building industry. It's a highly trained job and can involve building walls, chimney stacks, and decorative work such as archways.

# STEP 3 POST-BUILD

## SALES ADVISOR

A sales advisor is based at the site's show home or marketing and sales suite. Their duties include handling potential purchasers from first contact through to reservation and exchange of contracts, carrying out market research and using sales incentives as and when appropriate to help sell new homes.

## MARKETING MANAGER

The marketing manager is responsible for all aspects of marketing a new home development, including the co-ordination of the physical site set up, directional signage, brochures, conveyancing plans, sales boards, launches and PR functions.



## CUSTOMER SERVICE ADMINISTRATOR

A customer service administrator is responsible for answering questions from customers regarding the new home they have bought. They are responsible for organising appropriate action to be taken to resolve any issues there may be.

## SUPPORT STAFF

Behind each home building project there are a number of important support staff roles.

The **Human Resources** team develop and implement policies relating to the recruitment and employment of the people the company employs, as well as the ongoing development, training and upskilling of their workforce.

**Legal advisors** deal with legal matters such as overseeing all client and vendor contracts, ensuring compliance with construction laws and regulations, and producing the developer's pack necessary to complete home sales.

**Accountants and finance personnel** make sure all money owed to the builder is received and all money due to suppliers is paid. They will also prepare financial statements and reports to enable management teams and directors to plan ahead.

# HOW CAN I GET INTO HOME BUILDING?



Earn while you learn – it pays to develop your career with a home builder

You can start a career in home building at any point in your working life. You can join as:

## An apprentice or graduate

You can join the industry as an apprentice at 16 straight from school, after leaving college, and at any point in your career. There is no age limit on apprenticeships. Others may decide to wait until after they have finished university and join one of our graduate programmes.

## A career changer

Many adults will find they have transferable skills from another industry that can be applied to home building, whether that is semi-skilled, skilled or professional and managerial roles.

The home building industry is a popular choice of second careers for ex-armed forces personnel. It is hardly surprising when you consider building sites require discipline, teamwork and a range of other talents that ex-armed forces have as standard.

## Career returners

Former industry employees can return to update their skills or take on new roles.

You will be given the chance to learn your craft while you work, whether that's land buying or joinery. Together, we will put the time in to get you to where you want to be. And no matter what level you join, you will receive first class training and be given the opportunity to gain industry leading qualifications that will set you up for life.



"I'd definitely recommend the apprenticeship route I've taken, as it gives you the opportunity to learn a trade whilst earning."

**BILLY WOOD**  
Apprentice Bricklayer



## What is an apprenticeship?

An apprenticeship gives you the opportunity to gain an industry-relevant qualification while working for or with a home builder, earning a salary whilst also gaining valuable workplace skills and experience.

Apprenticeships are open to anyone living in England, over 16 years old and not in full-time education.

At current industry rates, apprentices earn on average between £9.5k and £18k per year.

## What is a graduate training scheme?

Graduate training schemes can take different formats depending on which home builder you choose to apply to. Usually though, they allow university graduates to experience aspects of both the specific role that interests them and the business as a whole.

The schemes vary in length depending on the specific employer programme. And like apprenticeships, graduate training schemes offer you the opportunity to earn while you learn (between £20k and £28k per year), all the while gaining vital workplace skills and experience.

## What is an industry-sponsored degree?

If you are interested in achieving a degree alongside a hands-on role learning relevant skills this could be a programme for you. They are generally 3-5 year programmes

that provide an essential combination of university learning and hands-on work that will set you up for a bright future in one of Britain's most exciting industries.

## What are internships and placements?

A chance to gain real world experience if you are studying for a degree, an eight-week summer internship or a 12-month

industrial placement. They are great ways to immerse yourself into the world of home building.

## Interested? Take your next step

If you think a career in home building is right for you, take the next step and find out more by visiting:

[HouseBuildingCareers.org.uk](http://HouseBuildingCareers.org.uk)

[housebuildingcareers](https://www.facebook.com/housebuildingcareers)

[@housebuildingcareers](https://twitter.com/housebuildingcareers)

THE NEXT LEVEL...

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