

Get into home building

Shape your future, build your community



A career to be proud of

The process of building a home is 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.



Is home building for me?

Home building offers vast and varied career opportunities, from practical trades to strategic positions. Whether you're a thinker or a doer, there is plenty of room to grow and enjoy a long and successful career.

From flats in cities to cottages in the country, we build the high-quality homes people and families across the country want and need.

New build homes are designed and built to be increasingly energy efficient and sustainable. Today's building standards and regulations mean that new homes must enhance natural habitats, reduce energy and water consumption and help the nation to achieve its net zero aspirations. So, now more than ever, there is a range of roles offered.

Regardless of the role you're interested in, home builders are committed to attracting new talent and there is a range of entry routes into the industry, from trainee programmes to degree-level apprenticeships.

Plus, once you've started your career, the industry offers plenty of scope for progression so you can continue to develop your professional skill set.



Barbara Akinkunmi
Technical Design Graduate

“

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.

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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 candidates who want to challenge themselves to achieve great things. If you think that sounds like you, then let us give you the tools you will 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. You'll be working as part of a team of like-minded people, in an environment that encourages you to think, to challenge yourself and work together to help drive the industry forward.



Ryan McLaughlin
Apprentice Carpenter and Joiner

“

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.

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“

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.

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Rosie Peniston
Planner



What does home building involve?

As you have probably guessed, everything we do as an industry helps to deliver high quality, new homes and thriving communities.

But there's more to home building than commonly-thought-of trade roles, like bricklayers and roofers. Our work starts before spades hit the ground, with Land Buyers, Planners, and Architects. It involves a range of professional and technical skills.

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.



Olivia Ward
Sustainability
Coordinator

“

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

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Explore a Home Building Site

Modern home building involves many people with lots of different skills and talents.

On the following 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

Planners supervise logistics, assign workers, control spending, and make sure work is completed on time. They're ultimately responsible for the work schedule.

Engineer

Engineers play a central role in the design and development of new homes. They produce detailed drawings of the engineering elements of a home and external infrastructure required, and provide technical support throughout the process. Their tasks include managing 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 (QS) manages all costs relating to the build, from the initial calculations to the final figures. They 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 projected budgets. They play a vital role in ensuring the profitability of contracts.

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 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. Safe working is very important too, as working at heights is dangerous if you're not trained.

Carpenter

Carpenters work with wood, mainly in the structure of a building – the roof, floor, and walls. The job involves using power tools and 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 workers on a site, whether directly employed or sub-contracted. They're responsible for checking, setting out and calling off materials, and working to a given programme. They must ensure timelines are met to cost, quality and health and safety requirements.

Groundworker

Groundworkers and Plant Operators prepare a site prior to and during the building process. They ensure important infrastructure is completed, including foundations, drainage, water and electrical connections, and driveways, paths and roads.

Bricklayer

Bricklayers 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.

Step 3 Post-build

Sales Advisor

Sales Advisors are 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 completion, carrying out market research and using sales incentives to help sell new homes.

Marketing Manager

Marketing Managers are responsible for all aspects of marketing a new home development, including co-ordinating the physical site set up, directional signage, brochures, sales boards, and PR.

Customer Service Administrator

Customer Service Administrators offer support to buyers of new homes. They are responsible for organising appropriate action to be taken to resolve any issues.

Support staff

Behind each home building project there are a number of important support staff roles. This includes Human Resources who develop and implement policies relating to the recruitment and employment and development of the workforce.

Legal Advisors deal with legal matters such as overseeing contracts and ensuring compliance with construction laws. Accountants and finance personnel make sure payments are made and received on time. They will also prepare financial statements and reports to enable management teams and directors to plan ahead.

How can I get into Home Building?

There are many ways to start working in home building and you can begin a career in the industry at any point in your working life.

Here are some routes to consider.

Become an apprentice

Apprenticeships allow you to work while earning a salary and studying for an industry-recognised qualification. Apprenticeships are available in many different occupations and at different levels. You can join the industry as an apprentice from school, college, or university or at any point in your career.

Graduate training schemes

Graduate training schemes are offered by many home builders. These structured training programmes are for recent construction and non-construction graduates, and offer experience within a chosen field or different areas of a company. Like apprenticeships, these schemes offer training alongside practical experience to develop your workplace skills.

Change career

Home building offers real opportunities for people looking to move within the construction industry or join from a completely different sector. Many people have transferable skills that are ideally suited to home building, such as teamwork and communication.

Return to work

Former industry employees who have taken a career break can rejoin the home building sector to reskill or take on new roles. Flexible working is becoming increasingly more common and modern technologies are emerging which require new types of job roles.



Apprenticeships

An apprenticeship is a paid job that comes with off-the-job qualifications. There are over 100 different apprenticeships in construction, ranging from bricklaying and site carpentry to more technical and management roles such as surveying and site supervision. Pre-apprenticeship training is also available through colleges and training providers and is a great way to start building up your trade skills.

Full-time further education

Full-time Further Education Construction courses are delivered by local colleges and allow you to develop key practical skills and gain work experience, while enjoying the advantages of studying in a college environment. A range of courses are on offer including multi-trades which are a great way of learning everything from plastering to painting and decorating.

T levels

T Levels are technical qualifications available to 16- to 19-year-olds and offer a mix of learning in the classroom and on the job industry placement. T-Levels help students into skilled employment, higher study or apprenticeships. T-Levels subjects that link with home building are Design, Surveying and Planning or Building Services Engineering.

Higher Technical Qualifications (HTQs)

HTQs sit alongside degrees and apprenticeships and are a good option for new entrants coming into the industry and for adults looking to upskill or re-train. They include qualifications such as higher national certificates (HNCs), diplomas (HNDs) and foundation degrees. HTQs are available in construction, design and build and can be studied at the same time as working for an employer. You can turn your qualification into a full honours degree or undertake an accelerated higher apprenticeship.



Interested?

Take your next step

You can find out more about careers in home building at **[HouseBuildingCareers.org.uk](https://www.housebuildingcareers.org.uk)**

Alternatively, search for home builders near you and explore their current opportunities.

Find out more

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visit **HouseBuildingCareers.org.uk**

