



Western Washington Sheet Metal JATC

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THE SHEET METAL WORKER

The sheet metal worker is a highly skilled craftsman who makes, installs, repairs and alters products made of metal sheets in construction, industrial, architectural, specialty, residential and transportation work.

The sheet metal worker plans and coordinates the installation; fabricates the metal to follow blueprints, plans or drawings; uses manual and power-driven cutting tools; punches, drills and shapes metal; and fits, welds and solders pieces into place. These include heating and air conditioning ducts; store fronts, roofing; aircraft, shipbuilding and railroad components; and many types of manufactured products such as kitchen equipment.

In construction, the sheet metal worker assembles and installs ventilating, air conditioning and heating ducts; cuts and installs roofs, gutters and downspouts. He/she also does such industrial work as installing air systems; spray booths; paint drying ovens, ducts and stacks; blow pipe systems; and tanks. He/she also works on air pollution control systems.

PERSONAL QUALIFICATIONS

A sheet metal worker should be in good physical condition and have above-average mechanical and mathematical ability. He/she also needs good eye-hand coordination, spatial and form perception, and good eyesight and manual dexterity. He/she should like and have ability for shop courses, mechanical drawing, and mathematics. Assets in sheet metal include patience, dependability, accuracy and an ability to get along with others.

WORKING CONDITIONS

The sheet metal worker is employed indoors and outdoors in all types of weather. Although the work may be seasonal in areas of extreme cold weather he/she often can apply their skills on indoor production in manufacturing. Sheet metal work is challenging because of the constantly changing nature. It involves considerable standing, bending, reaching, and lifting, as well as working at heights, in both cramped and easily accessible spaces and on cold construction sites and warm shops. Although hazards are kept to a minimum by following safety measures, the sheet metal worker is subject to cuts from sharp metal, burns from soldering and welding equipment and falls from heights.