

Trade Profile

Cabinetmaker



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Trade profile

CABINETMAKER



Structure of the Trade Profile

This profile has two sections that provide a snapshot of the trade's description, and all trade activities as they are organized in the Red Seal Occupational Standard:

Description of the Cabinetmaker trade: an overview of the trade's duties, work environment, job requirements, similar occupations and career progression

Task Matrix: a chart which outlines graphically the major work activities, tasks and sub-tasks of this standard

Major Work Activity (MWA): the largest division within the standard that is comprised of a distinct set of trade activities

Task: distinct actions that describe the activities within a major work activity

Sub-task: distinct actions that describe the activities within a task

DESCRIPTION OF THE CABINETMAKER TRADE

“**Cabinetmaker**” is this trade’s official Red Seal occupational title approved by the CCDA. This standard covers tasks performed by cabinetmakers.

Cabinetmakers build, repair, finish and install residential and commercial cabinets (including hardware), wooden furniture and architectural millwork using a variety of woods, laminates and other products. Cabinetmakers read drawings and specifications, and prepare layouts. They also set up and operate woodworking equipment, both power and computerized, to machine wood products and composite materials. Cabinetmakers use various hand and power tools, and precision woodworking tools to perform their work. In some shops, cabinetmakers sand and finish the surfaces either before or after assembly. They also apply finishing products.

Cabinetmakers are employed by millwork contractors, general contractors, and kitchen, cabinet and furniture manufacturers. They may also be self-employed. The products they produce may be production or custom-made pieces. Production pieces are made in large quantities and according to a standard design. Custom-made pieces are often from one-of-a-kind designs and are not mass-produced. Some cabinetmakers specialize in a specific type of product, such as custom-made furniture, stairs or cabinet doors. In some cabinetmaking shops using high-tech, computer-controlled equipment, cabinetmakers may specialize in one or two functions. A working knowledge of the design principles, functional requirements, and traditions associated with furniture building is also advantageous in many areas of the cabinetmaker trade.

Cabinetmakers primarily work in a shop environment, but they may also work at locations where the products are installed. While the working environment varies according to employers and locations, cabinetmakers are often exposed to workplace health and safety risks such as high noise levels, sawdust and chemicals. There are risks of injury involved in working with woodworking machinery, portable power tools and hand tools.

Key attributes for people in this trade are good eye-hand coordination, manual dexterity, mathematical aptitude and good conceptual skills. Cabinetmakers require a high degree of accuracy, and good eyesight to select woods and look for imperfections. The work may require lifting of heavy materials.

This standard recognizes similarities or overlaps with the work of carpenters, and painters and decorators.

With experience, cabinetmakers may act as mentors and trainers to apprentices in the trade. They may advance to supervisory or design positions or may set up their own shop. Some may choose to specialize in areas such as stairs, veneering or finishing.

Cabinetmaker

TASK MATRIX

A – Performs common occupational skills

12%

Task A-1 Performs safety-related functions 15%	A-1.01 Maintains safe work environment	A-1.02 Uses personal protective equipment (PPE) and safety equipment	
Task A-2 Maintains tools and equipment 19%	A-2.01 Maintains hand, portable power and pneumatic tools and equipment	A-2.02 Maintains stationary power tools	A-2.03 Maintains automated and computer numerical control (CNC) equipment
	A-2.04 Maintains finishing equipment		
Task A-3 Organizes work 26%	A-3.01 Interprets prints and drawings	A-3.02 Plans project	A-3.03 Creates design
	A-3.04 Performs layout of cabinets, furniture and architectural millwork		
Task A-4 Performs routine work practices 26%	A-4.01 Handles materials, supplies and products	A-4.02 Fabricates jigs and templates	A-4.03 Builds prototypes
	A-4.04 Dry-fits components	A-4.05 Selects hardware	A-4.06 Selects adhesives and fasteners
Task A-5 Uses communication and mentoring techniques 14%	A-5.01 Uses communication techniques	A-5.02 Uses mentoring techniques	

B – Performs machining

17%

Task B-6 Machines components using stationary and portable power tools 72%	B-6.01 Breaks out solid wood	B-6.02 Dresses solid wood	B-6.03 Shapes solid wood
	B-6.04 Breaks out sheet materials	B-6.05 Machines sheet materials	B-6.06 Machines joints
	B-6.07 Performs preliminary sanding		
Task B-7 Machines components using automated and CNC equipment 28%	B-7.01 Sets up automated and CNC equipment	B-7.02 Operates automated and CNC equipment	

C – Performs forming and laminating

11%

Task C-8 Creates curved components using wood and composite materials 44%	C-8.01 Builds forms	C-8.02 Performs curved laminating	C-8.03 Steam-forms wood
	Task C-9 Laminates wood and composite materials 56%	C-9.01 Arranges materials for laminating	C-9.02 Applies adhesive for laminating

D – Installs veneers and laminates

11%

Task D-10 Applies veneers 50%	D-10.01 Selects veneers	D-10.02 Prepares veneer and substrate	D-10.03 Adheres veneers to substrates
	D-10.04 Performs final clean-up of veneered panels		
Task D-11 Applies laminate sheets 50%	D-11.01 Selects laminate sheets	D-11.02 Prepares laminate sheets and substrate	D-11.03 Adheres laminate sheets to substrate
	D-11.04 Performs final clean-up of laminated sheets		

E – Performs shop assembly

17%

Task E-12 Assembles cabinets and furniture 54%	E-12.01 Assembles cabinet components	E-12.02 Assembles furniture components	E-12.03 Combines cabinet and furniture components into final assemblies
Task E-13 Assembles architectural millwork products 46%	E-13.01 Assembles architectural millwork components in shop	E-13.02 Assembles architectural fixtures in shop	

F – Performs finishing

11%

<p>Task F-14 Prepares surface for finishing 51%</p>	<p>F-14.01 Repairs imperfections</p>	<p>F-14.02 Prepares parts for finishing</p>	<p>F-14.03 Performs final sanding of surfaces</p>
<p>Task F-15 Finishes wood products 49%</p>	<p>F-15.01 Prepares finishing materials</p>	<p>F-15.02 Applies finishing material manually</p>	<p>F-15.03 Sprays on finishing material</p>

G – Performs on-site assembly and installation

13%

<p>Task G-16 Modifies products to site conditions 30%</p>	<p>G-16.01 Cuts access holes on site</p>	<p>G-16.02 Scribes product to fit on site</p>	
<p>Task G-17 Installs cabinets and countertops 38%</p>	<p>G-17.01 Performs final on-site assembly and fastening of cabinets and countertops</p>	<p>G-17.02 Finalizes installation of cabinets and countertops</p>	
<p>Task G-18 Installs architectural millwork products and mouldings 32%</p>	<p>G-18.01 Performs final on-site assembly and fastening of architectural millwork products</p>	<p>G-18.02 Installs mouldings</p>	<p>G-18.03 Finalizes installation of architectural millwork products and mouldings</p>

H – Performs specialized operations

8%

<p>Task H-19 Builds stairs and balustrades 32%</p>	<p>H-19.01 Lays out stair and balustrade components</p>	<p>H-19.02 Machines stair and balustrade components</p>	<p>H-19.03 Assembles stairs and balustrades</p>
	<p>H-19.04 Installs stairs and balustrades</p>		
<p>Task H-20 Works with solid surface material and custom countertops 36%</p>	<p>H-20.01 Breaks out materials</p>	<p>H-20.02 Fabricates solid surface material</p>	<p>H-20.03 Installs solid surface material</p>
<p>Task H-21 Creates decorative woodwork 20%</p>	<p>H-21.01 Performs marquetry (NOT COMMON CORE)</p>	<p>H-21.02 Performs carving (NOT COMMON CORE)</p>	<p>H-21.03 Performs woodturning</p>
<p>Task H-22 Restores woodwork 12%</p>	<p>H-22.01 Repairs woodwork for restoration purposes</p>	<p>H-22.02 Refinishes woodwork</p>	