

Trade Profile

Drywall Finisher and Plasterer



red-seal.ca
sceau-rouge.ca





Trade profile

Drywall Finisher and Plasterer



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 Drywall Finisher and Plasterer 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 Drywall Finisher and Plasterer Trade

“Drywall Finisher and Plasterer” is this trade’s official Red Seal occupational title approved by the CCDA. This standard covers tasks performed by drywall finishers and plasterers.

Drywall finishers and plasterers prepare surfaces, tape and finish drywall. They apply, maintain and restore plaster and similar materials on interior and exterior walls, ceilings and building partitions to make them more decorative, soundproof and fire-rated. Drywall finishers and plasterers inspect and prepare the surface. They apply tape to fire-rate and gas-proof walls and prevent drafts. They install beads to protect corners, fill joints and imperfections, mix and apply compound, and sand to create a smooth surface.

Drywall finishers and plasterers may repair or restore plastered surfaces, and textured drywall. They may also repair and restore mouldings.

Drywall finishers and plasterers work in the construction industry, largely in the institutional, commercial and residential sectors. They may be employed by drywall finishing contractors or be self-employed.

Drywall finishers and plasterers use a wide variety of hand, power, and layout and measuring tools. They mix compounds and fast-setting materials using electrical mixers. They may apply tape using automatic taping tools or hand tools such as hawks, trowels and taping knives. Drywall finishers and plasterers occasionally texture walls and ceilings using power compressors. Measuring tools are used to lay out the location of mouldings and ornaments on walls and ceilings. Access equipment such as scaffolding, ladders and scissor lifts are used for hard-to-reach areas.

Drywall finishers and plasterers may practice the full scope of the trade or specialize. Many work indoors on new construction sites while others work on older buildings doing repairs or renovations. They often work at heights, in noisy and dusty conditions, and alongside other trades.

Key attributes for people entering this trade include physical endurance, flexibility and strength as the work requires a lot of standing, bending and lifting. Manual dexterity and good eye-hand coordination are necessary as are good vision and spatial perception. The ability to estimate and calculate size and dimensions is important and an artistic aptitude is helpful in restorative work. Attention to detail, problem solving and job planning skills are also important attributes.

This standard recognizes similarities or overlaps with the work of bricklayers, painters and decorators, lathers (interior systems mechanics), concrete finishers and carpenters.

Experienced drywall finishers and plasterers may advance to supervisory and mentorship positions or other related areas such as construction management, instruction and inspection.

Drywall Finisher and Plasterer

Task Matrix and Weightings

A – Performs common occupational skills

25%

Task A-1 Performs safety-related functions 7%	A-1.01 Maintains safe work environment	A-1.02 Uses personal protective equipment (PPE) and safety equipment	
Task A-2 Uses and maintains tools and equipment 5%	A-2.01 Uses access and lifting equipment	A-2.02 Maintains tools and equipment	
Task A-3 Performs common work practices and procedures 11%	A-3.01 Handles materials	A-3.02 Plans project	A-3.03 Prepares worksite
	A-3.04 Inspects surfaces	A-3.05 Mixes compounds	A-3.06 Cleans premises after job completion
	A-3.07 Verifies work completed		
Task A-4 Uses communication and mentoring techniques 2%	A-4.01 Uses communication techniques	A-4.02 Uses mentoring techniques	

B – Prepares, tapes and finishes drywall

55%

Task B-5 Prepares for taping 3%	B-5.01 Prepares drywall surface	B-5.02 Pre-fills drywall	
Task B-6 Tapes drywall 28%	B-6.01 Tapes to fire-rate (fire-proof) and gas-proof (smoke-seal) surfaces	B-6.02 Embeds tape	B-6.03 Installs beads and trim
	B-6.04 Applies multiple coats of compound manually	B-6.05 Applies coats of compound using automatic taping tools	B-6.06 Scuff-sands between coats
Task B-7 Finishes drywall 19%	B-7.01 Applies level 5 finish	B-7.02 Performs touch-ups	B-7.03 Performs final sanding
	B-7.04 Performs wet sanding		

C – Performs repairs and restorations

20%

Task C-8 Troubleshoots problems 9%	C-8.01 Determines cause of problem	C-8.02 Determines type of repair	
Task C-9 Repairs taped drywall surfaces 7%	C-9.01 Seals surfaces and stains	C-9.02 Repairs drywall	
C-10 Repairs plastered surfaces and restores textured surfaces and mouldings 4%	C-10.01 Repairs plastered surfaces	C-10.02 Restores textured surfaces	C-10.03 Restores mouldings