

Trade Profile

Lather

(Interior Systems Mechanic)



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RED SEAL
TRADE PROFILE
LATHER
(INTERIOR SYSTEMS MECHANIC)



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 Lather (Interior Systems Mechanic) 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 trade

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

A complete version of the occupational standard, which provides additional detail for the trade activities, skills and knowledge can be found at www.red-seal.ca.

DESCRIPTION OF THE LATHER (INTERIOR SYSTEMS MECHANIC) TRADE

“Lather (Interior Systems Mechanic)” is this trade’s official Red Seal occupational title approved by the CCDA. This standard covers tasks performed by lathers (interior systems mechanics).

Lathers (Interior Systems Mechanics) handle, erect and install materials that are components in the construction of all or part of a structure. They lay out and install framework for ceiling systems, interior and exterior walls, floors and roofs. They install various types of ceilings (e.g., suspended, spanned, direct contact), shielded walls (e.g., fire, sound, thermal separation) and various sheathing products. They also perform acoustical installations.

Materials that lathers (interior systems mechanics) install include: cold rolled steel components (e.g., steel studs, tracks, channels), metal door and window frames, stucco wire, vapour barriers and insulation, sheathing products (e.g., gypsum and cement products), specialty architectural products and metal lath.

Lathers (Interior Systems Mechanics) are employed by construction companies and drywall contractors. They may also be self-employed. In the residential construction industry, they construct, maintain and renovate structures from single-family homes to multi-story apartments. In the commercial, institutional and industrial construction sectors, they build, maintain and renovate structures such as commercial buildings, schools, hospitals and manufacturing complexes.

Lathers (Interior Systems Mechanics) work both indoors and outdoors year-round. They may specialize in individual aspects of the trade such as layout, wall framing and drywall installation. They use a variety of hand and power tools. They also use layout tools such as surveyor’s levels and laser levels. They may use machinery such as boom lifts and scissor lifts to access their work. The installation of metal stud framing and suspended ceilings often requires the use of lasers and powder-actuated tools.

Key attributes for people in this trade are good hand-eye coordination, the ability to work at heights and the ability to pay attention to detail. Lathers (Interior Systems Mechanics) must be able to read and interpret information from drawings, blueprints and specifications. The work may require lifting and positioning heavy building materials in a fast-paced environment. The work is physically demanding and requires the use of personal protective equipment. Workers in this trade work in teams and independently.

There are similarities and overlaps with the work of carpenters, insulators, and drywall finishers and plasterers.

Experienced lathers (interior systems mechanics) may act as mentors and trainers to apprentices in the trade. They may also advance to positions such as estimators, supervisors, training coordinators and project managers.

TRENDS IN THE LATHER (INTERIOR SYSTEMS MECHANIC) TRADE

Tools and Equipment

Laser levelling and layout tools and technology are becoming more accurate, less expensive and more user-friendly, as are other electronic and digital devices and software.

Battery fastening tools and systems are also becoming more commonly used and user-friendly.

Materials and Building Technology

There is an increased use of steel floor decking systems. More efficient building technologies are being developed for the steel framing industry. Seismic restraints are becoming more common in the construction industry.

There is a wider variety of wall and ceiling component systems such as drywall grid systems and premade wood backing, resulting in faster installation. There is an increased emphasis on smoke and fire stopping, resulting in some lathers (interior systems mechanics) specializing in the installation of smoke and fire barriers. Lathers (interior systems mechanics) have more choice in the types of clips such as glue-on and friction fit clips.

There is an increase in the use of rainscreen systems for moisture drainage. New products are being introduced in the market to create the rainscreen (e.g., plastic stucco wire with built-in rainscreen). Pre-manufactured panels are used more frequently. The use of cementitious panels and planks for exterior finish is increasing.

LATHER (INTERIOR SYSTEMS MECHANIC)

TASK MATRIX

A – Performs common occupational skills

21%

Task A-1 Performs safety-related functions 11%	A-1.01 Maintains safe work environment	A-1.02 Uses personal protective equipment (PPE) and safety equipment	
Task A-2 Uses tools and equipment 23%	A-2.01 Uses hand tools	A-2.02 Uses power tools and equipment	A-2.03 Uses powder-actuated tools
	A-2.04 Uses gas-actuated tools	A-2.05 Uses pneumatic tools (NOT COMMON CORE)	A-2.06 Uses layout and measuring devices
	A-2.07 Uses scaffolding and access equipment		
Task A-3 Organizes work 26%	A-3.01 Uses documentation and reference materials	A-3.02 Uses blueprints and drawings	A-3.03 Plans project tasks
	A-3.04 Estimates materials and supplies		
Task A-4 Performs routine trade activities 29%	A-4.01 Performs measurements	A-4.02 Uses jigs and templates	A-4.03 Handles materials, supplies and products
	A-4.04 Lays out work	A-4.05 Applies sealants and gaskets	
Task A-5 Uses communication and mentoring techniques 11%	A-5.01 Uses communication techniques	A-5.02 Uses mentoring techniques	

B – Performs framing activities

30%

Task B-6
Erects non-loadbearing steel assemblies
60%

B-6.01 Frames non-loadbearing walls	B-6.02 Frames spanned ceilings	B-6.03 Frames suspended drywall ceilings
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B-6.04 Frames non-loadbearing bulkheads	B-6.05 Installs metal door and window frames	B-6.06 Installs backing
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Task B-7
Erects loadbearing steel assemblies
40%

B-7.01 Frames loadbearing walls	B-7.02 Frames exterior ceilings and soffits	B-7.03 Frames loadbearing bulkheads
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B-7.04 Frames loadbearing floors	B-7.05 Frames loadbearing roofs	
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C – Installs interior systems

36%

Task C-8
Installs wall systems and components
32%

C-8.01 Installs demountable walls	C-8.02 Installs drywall	C-8.03 Finishes drywall
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C-8.04 Installs drywall trims and mouldings	C-8.05 Installs security mesh	C-8.06 Installs access panels
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Task C-9
Installs ceiling systems
31%

C-9.01 Installs suspended ceilings	C-9.02 Installs non-suspended ceilings	
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Task C-10
Installs access flooring systems
6%

C-10.01 Installs pedestals and supporting hardware	C-10.02 Installs flooring panels	
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Task C-11
Installs sound barriers and lead radiation shielding
11%

C-11.01 Installs sound barriers	C-11.02 Installs lead radiation shielding	
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Task C-12
Installs smoke and fire barriers
20%

C-12.01 Installs shaft wall systems	C-12.02 Seals penetrations	C-12.03 Encloses beams, columns and staircases to achieve desired fire rating
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D – Installs exterior systems

13%

Task D-13 Installs insulation and membranes 48%	D-13.01 Installs thermal insulation	D-13.02 Installs interior/exterior membranes	
Task D-14 Prepares surface for exterior finishes 36%	D-14.01 Installs exterior sheathing	D-14.02 Installs lath	D-14.03 Installs Exterior Insulation Finish System (EIFS) (NOT COMMON CORE)
Task D-15 Installs exterior finishes 16%	D-15.01 Fabricates panels	D-15.02 Installs pre-manufactured panels	