

Qualified Carpenter

Bardie is a qualified carpenter and site manager who loves problem-solving and working with her hands. After becoming a labourer while studying for a Bachelor of Fine Arts, Bardie discovered a flair for carpentry and decided to pursue an apprenticeship. Find out more:

futureyouaustralia.com.au/pathfinders/bardie



'I want my career to continue to help me work with purpose and intent for those in the industry now, and in the generation to come.'

3 STEM skills required for this job

Critical thinking

Mathematics

Problem solving

STEM Meter

How much Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) does this job use?

S  45%

T  60%

E  47%

M  58%

Source: jobsandskills.gov.au

5 reasons why you should do this job

- 1 You get to build really cool stuff
- 2 Work with all sorts of tools and gadgets
- 3 Solve puzzles
- 4 You get to work outside
- 5 Help others

Subjects to develop these skills

Science, Mathematics, Digital Technology

Mathematics

Design and Technologies, Digital Technology

An example of a day in the life of a carpenter

5.00am I greet the morning sun with a sense of purpose, a habit formed from my years as a carpenter. Before I start my day I make a strong cup of coffee and check the weather forecast knowing that even a hint of rain could disrupt our progress at the build site.

5.15am Time for breakfast before I get dressed in my work pants and work shirt – these are long to protect me from splinters and the sun. I grab my steel-capped work boots so my toes are protected if I drop something heavy, and my toolbelt. I LOVE my toolbelt. It carries all my essentials, such as my hammer, tape measure, pencils and more.

5.45am With another coffee in my hand I set off for the build site where I'm part of an exciting project: constructing environmentally friendly duplexes. It's a job that goes beyond carpentry. It's about helping people build their homes in a sustainable way.

6.30am The day begins with the whole team reviewing our project plan and consulting the architectural blueprints. Here, STEM skills come into play. We calculate load-bearing capacities, analyse structural integrity and ensure that the eco-friendly materials we use are both durable and energy-efficient. Carpentry, in this context, is a blend of art and science.

10.00am As the morning progresses, I'm in my element. Once I grab my safety goggles, dust mask and knee pads I get to work measuring, cutting, and assembling wood with precision. Each piece I work on is a contribution to these sustainable homes so I ask some of the more experienced carpenters to check my work. They're always happy to lend a hand and offer some guidance.

Midday Tools down on the site and we all take a break. Lunch is fun on the work site. We all get to have a laugh and recharge. I enjoy some leftovers from last night. It's important I eat food that gives me enough energy for the afternoon ahead.

1.00pm It's time to focus on the fine details that make these duplexes environmentally friendly. I support the team with the installation of the energy-efficient windows and use this opportunity to learn more about sustainable materials all while maintaining a keen eye for precision and quality.

3.00pm I help clean up the build site and secure the tools. Safety and organisation are important in construction to minimise waste and maximise efficiency.

5.00pm Time to switch gears. I head to the gym for a workout because being fit is important in my job. A workout routine keeps me fit and also sharpens my problem-solving skills which I apply at work.

6.30pm I meet up with friends for dinner. We share stories, laughter, and I talk about all the incredible things I have been learning about sustainable living. My friends are all ears – the environment is really important to all of us.

8.00pm I get home and do some sketching of design ideas for future sustainable projects. I apply all the knowledge I learnt today at work to help me design innovative and eco-friendly housing solutions. One day I want to have my own business, building sustainable, beautiful homes.

9.00pm I collapse into bed. My body and my mind are both happy, but exhausted and they need some serious rest.