



DRYWALL FINISHER AND PLASTERER

THIS BC PROGRAM HAS BEEN HARMONIZED AND IS BASED ON RSOS 2023

Occupation Description

Drywall finisher and plasterers prepare surfaces, tape, and finish drywall. They apply, maintain, and restore drywall and similar materials on interior and exterior walls, ceilings, and building partitions to make them more decorative, soundproof, and fire-rated. 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 for paint and other finishes.

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

Drywall finisher and plasterers work in the construction industry, largely in the institutional, commercial, industrial, and residential sectors. They may be employed by wall and ceiling contractors or be self-employed.

For detailed information on the scope of knowledge and skills taught and assessed in this program refer to the Program Outline, available on the SkilledTradesBC website.

Pathways to Certification

In BC, an individual can become certified as a Drywall Finisher and Plasterer by completing the Drywall Finisher and Plasterer program or by challenging the certification. Apprenticeship programs are for individuals who have an employer to sponsor them and challenge programs are for individuals who have extensive experience working in the occupation and wish to challenge the certification.

Youth can begin an apprenticeship in high school through the Youth Train in Trades or Youth Work in Trades programs. The Youth Work in Trades program is available for any trade if an employer is willing to sponsor the student. Trades offered through the Youth Train in Trades vary by region; contact your local school district to find out which technical training programs are being offered through the Youth Train in Trades program in your region.

Recommended Education

The following education is **recommended** for apprentices entering this occupation. These are not prerequisites, but rather a desired level of skill or knowledge that will contribute to success in the industry.

- Grade 10 or equivalent including English 10, Mathematics 10 and Science 10
- Preferred: Grade 12
- See <https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/> for a list of current BC High school course names

SkilledTradesBC Registration

Individuals who wish to begin an apprenticeship in this program must register with SkilledTradesBC along with their sponsor. Application forms for all programs are available from the SkilledTradesBC website. Online registration is also available for most programs through the SkilledTradesBC website.

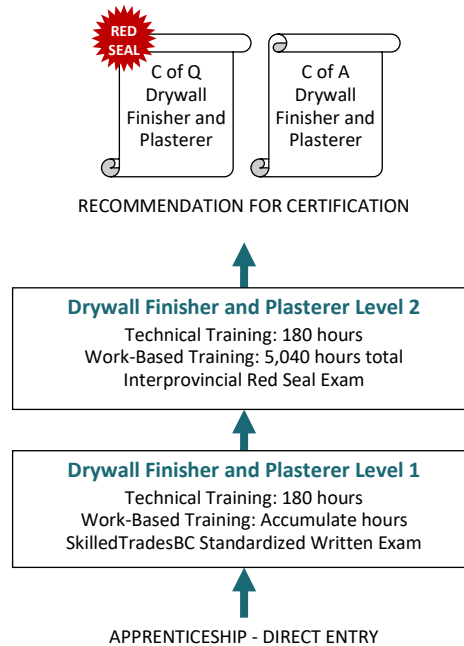
Those who wish to challenge the Drywall Finisher and Plasterer certification must complete the Drywall Finisher and Plasterer Challenge Application and submit it to SkilledTradesBC. Challenge applications are assessed for proof of workplace hours and scope of experience prior to acceptance of the individual into the Challenge pathway.



Apprenticeship Pathway

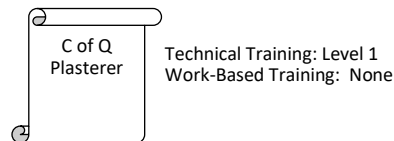
This graphic provides an overview of the Drywall Finisher and Plasterer apprenticeship pathway.

*C of Q = Certificate of Qualification
C of A = Certificate of Apprenticeship
C of C = Certificate of Completion
WBT = Work-Based Training*



CROSS-PROGRAM CREDITS

Individuals who hold the credentials listed below are entitled to receive partial credit toward the completion requirements of this program





Apprenticeship Program Standards

Credentials Awarded

- Drywall Finisher and Plasterer – Certificate of Qualification with Red Seal endorsement
- Drywall Finisher and Plasterer – Certificate of Apprenticeship

**SkilledTradesBC
Registration Prerequisites**

- Agreement signed by the employer to sponsor the apprentice

Completion Requirements Certification as a Drywall Finisher and Plasterer is awarded upon successful completion of:

Requirement	Level of Achievement Required
Technical Training	Minimum 70% in each level of technical training: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Level 1: 180 hours and SkilledTradesBC standardized written exam ▪ Level 2: 180 hours
Interprovincial Red Seal Exam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Minimum 70%
Work-Based Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 5,040 hours
Recommendation for Certification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Recommendation for certification signed by the Sponsor and an individual holding credentials eligible for sign-off authority

Program Duration

Duration varies depending on how training is delivered, but the program generally takes 3 years to complete.

The technical training requirement is typically met through block-release training (full-time, at school) delivered by a SkilledTradesBC-approved training provider. It can also be met through approved alternative training models (e.g., distance education, online, part-time) and/or level challenge where these options are available.

Sign-off Authority

Credentials eligible to sign-off on the Recommendation for Certification:

- Drywall Finisher – Certificate of Qualification
- Drywall Finisher and Plasterer – Certificate of Qualification
- Drywall Finisher and Plasterer – Interprovincial Red Seal endorsement
- Lather (Interior Systems Mechanic) – Certificate of Qualification
- Lather (Interior Systems Mechanic) – Interprovincial Red Seal endorsement
- SkilledTradesBC-issued letter authorizing supervision and sign-off of apprentices in this occupation

Challenging a Level

The following levels of technical training can be challenged for advanced placement in this program. There may be additional eligibility requirements to challenge a level. For more information, please visit our website.

Level

- Level 1

Cross-Program Credits

Individuals who hold the credentials listed below are entitled to receive partial credit toward the completion requirements of this program

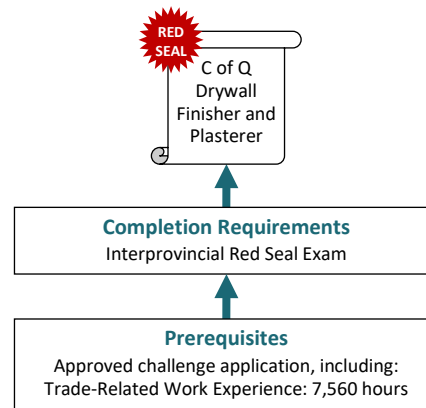
Credential	Credit(s) Granted
Plasterer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Technical Training: Level 1 ▪ Work-Based Training: None



Challenge Pathway

This graphic provides an overview of the Drywall Finisher and Plasterer challenge pathway.

C of Q = Certificate of Qualification



CREDIT FOR PRIOR LEARNING

Individuals who hold the credentials listed below are entitled to receive partial credit toward the completion requirements of this program

None

Challenge Program Standards

Credentials Awarded	Drywall Finisher and Plasterer – Certificate of Qualification with Red Seal endorsement	
SkilledTradesBC Registration Prerequisites	An approved Challenge Application, which includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7,560 documented hours of directly related experience working in the occupation 	
Credit for Prior Learning	Individuals who hold the credentials listed below are considered to have met, or partially met, the prerequisites for challenging this program:	
	Credential	Credit(s) Granted
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None 	
Completion Requirements	Certification as a Drywall Finisher and Plasterer is awarded upon successful completion of:	
	Requirement	Level of Achievement Required
	Interprovincial Red Seal Exam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimum 70%



Supporting Documents

Drywall Finisher and Plasterer Program Outline (2026) – Defines the full scope of knowledge and skills required to competently perform the occupation in BC. Available from the SkilledTradesBC website.

Drywall Finisher and Plasterer Red Seal Occupation Standard (2023) – Prepared by industry experts, under the guidance of the federal government, for Red Seal trades to define the national standard of competence for the trade. Available from the Red Seal website: www.red-seal.ca.

Contacts

SkilledTradesBC manages B.C.'s industry training and apprenticeship programs. Contact SkilledTradesBC Customer service if you have any questions regarding registration, examinations or certification for this program.

Telephone: 778-328-8700
Toll Free (within BC): 1-866-660-6011
Website: www.skilledtradesbc.ca

Fax: 778-328-8701
Email: customerservice@skilledtradesbc.ca

Revision History

The standards for this program were reviewed and/or updated on the dates below.

Program Standards Approved: March 2002
Updated: May 2006
Updated: August 2013
Updated: May 2025

Program Profiles are updated regularly. Visit www.skilledtradesbc.ca for the most current version.