

PLUMBER

Occupation Description

“Plumber” means a person who installs, alters or repairs any plumbing system including all work usually done by a journey person plumber governed by the BC Plumbing Code.

Regulations concerning the planning, installation, maintenance and inspection of sewage treatment systems may vary by jurisdiction. Additional certification may be required in some jurisdictions to allow plumbers to plan and perform work on these systems.

For information regarding BC regulations, please refer to [Sewerage System Regulation](#)

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 Plumber by completing the Plumber 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.

Foundation programs, where available, provide adults and youth who do not have work experience nor employer sponsorship with an opportunity to gain the knowledge and skills needed to enter the occupation. Individuals who wish to enroll in a Foundation program must register directly with the training provider.

Recommended Education

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

- Grade 12 or equivalent including English 12, Algebra 11 or Trade Mathematics 11, and Physics 11 or Science & Technology 11

SkilledTradesBC Registration

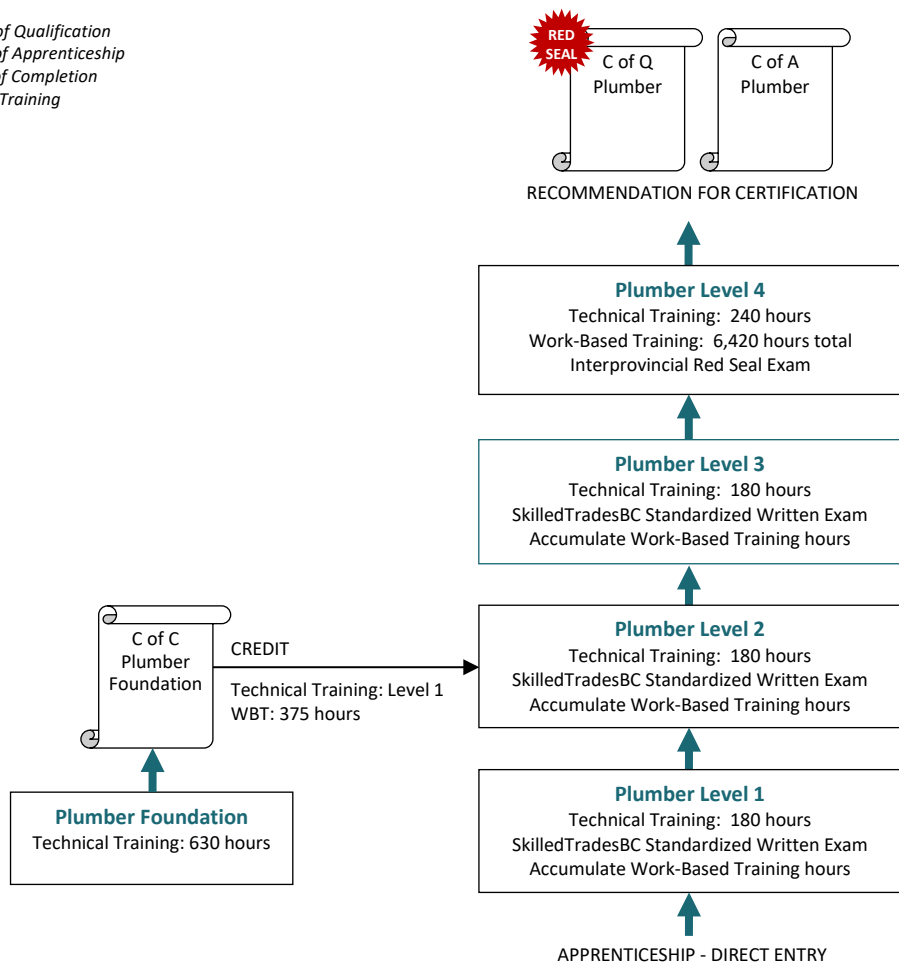
Individuals who wish to begin an apprenticeship in this program must register with SkilledTradesBC along with their sponsors. Application forms are available from the SkilledTradesBC website.

Those who wish to challenge the Plumber certification must complete the Plumber Challenge Package 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

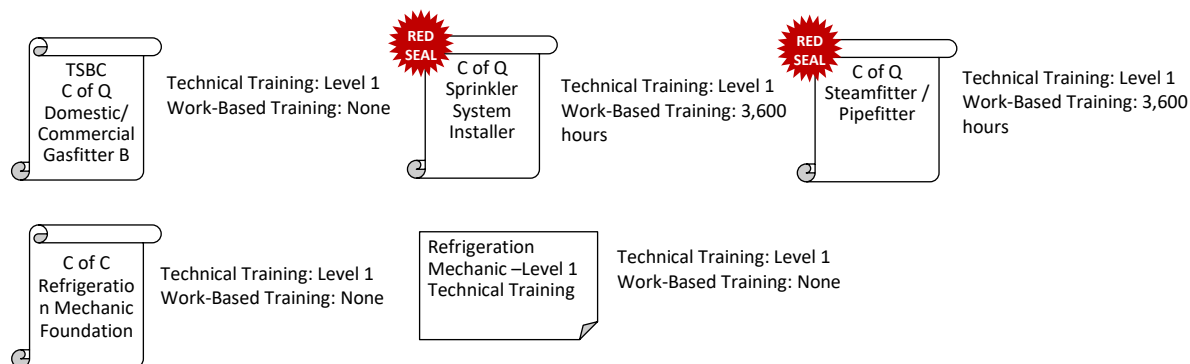
This graphic provides an overview of the Plumber apprenticeship pathway.

*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

- Plumber – Certificate of Qualification with Interprovincial Red Seal endorsement
- Plumber – Certificate of Apprenticeship

**SkilledTradesBC
Registration Pre-requisites**

- Agreement signed by the employer to sponsor the apprentice

Completion Requirements Certification as a Plumber is awarded upon successful completion of:

Requirement
Level of Achievement Required
Technical Training

Minimum 70% in each level of technical training:

- Level 1: 180 hours and SkilledTradesBC Standardized Written Exam
- Level 2: 180 hours and SkilledTradesBC Standardized Written Exam
- Level 3: 180 hours and SkilledTradesBC Standardized Written Exam
- Level 4: 240 hours

Interprovincial Red Seal Exam

- Minimum 70%

Work-based Training

- 6,420 hours

Recommendation for Certification

- 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 4 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:

- Plumber – Certificate of Qualification
- Plumber – 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

Level

- Level 1
- Level 2



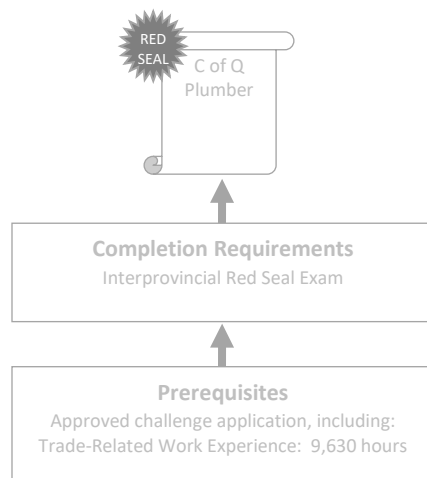
Apprenticeship Program Standards

Cross-Program Credits	Credential	Credit(s) Granted
	Domestic/Commercial Gasfitter B – Certificate of Qualification issued by the BC Safety Authority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Technical Training: Level 1 ▪ Work-Based Training: None
	Sprinkler System Installer – Certificate of Qualification with Interprovincial Red Seal endorsement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Technical Training: Level 1 ▪ Work-Based Training: 3,600 hours
	Steamfitter/Pipefitter – Certificate of Qualification with Interprovincial Red Seal endorsement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Technical Training: Level 1 ▪ Work-Based Training: 3,600 hours
	Refrigeration Mechanic Foundation – Certificate of Completion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Technical Training: Level 1 ▪ Work-Based Training: None
	Refrigeration Mechanic – Level 1 Technical Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Technical Training: Level 1 ▪ Work-Based Training: None

Challenge Pathway *(please refer to the Harmonized Plumber Program Profile)*

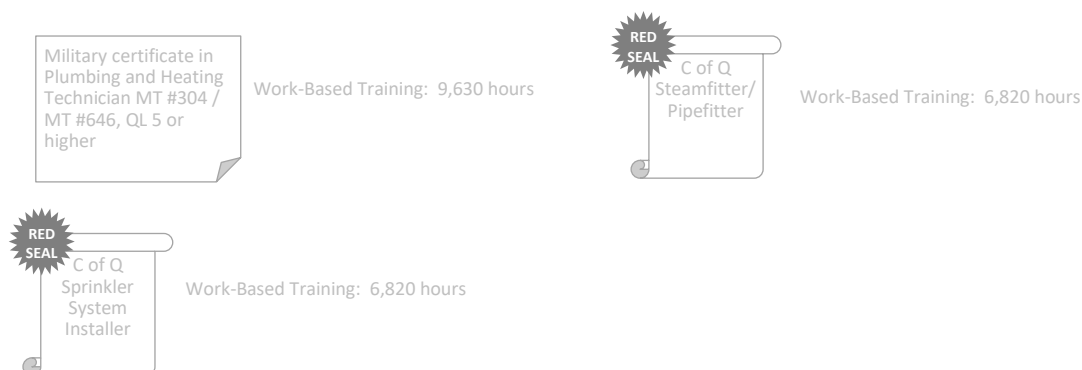
This graphic provides an overview of the Plumber challenge pathway.

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



Challenge Program Standards

Credentials Awarded Plumber – Certificate of Qualification with Interprovincial Red Seal endorsement

SkilledTradesBC Registration Pre-requisites An approved Challenge Application, which includes:
 ▪ 9,630 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
Steamfitter/Pipefitter – Certificate of Qualification with Interprovincial Red Seal endorsement	▪ 6,820 workplace hours
Sprinkler System Installer – Certificate of Qualification with Interprovincial Red Seal endorsement	▪ 6,820 workplace hours
Military certificate in Plumbing and Heating Technician MT #304 / MT #646, QL5 or higher	▪ 9,630 workplace hours ▪ Approved Challenge Application

Completion Requirements Certification as a Plumber is awarded upon successful completion of:

Requirement	Level of Achievement Required
Interprovincial Red Seal Exam	▪ Minimum 70%

Foundation Program

Refer to the Apprenticeship pathway credentialing model for this program to see how the Plumber Foundation program fits into the apprenticeship pathway for this occupation.

Foundation Program Standards

Credentials Awarded Plumber – Certificate of Completion

Enrollment Pre-requisites Contact training provider. Prerequisites vary between training institutions.

Completion Requirements A Certificate of Completion in this program is awarded upon successful completion of:

Requirement	Level of Achievement Required
Technical Training	▪ Minimum 70%

Program Duration Duration varies depending on how training is delivered, but the program generally takes 21 weeks to complete, assuming 30 hours in school per week

Credit toward Apprenticeship Individuals who complete the Plumber Foundation program will receive the following credit toward completion of the Plumber apprenticeship program:
 ▪ Technical Training: Level 1
 ▪ Work-Based Training: 375 hours

**Supporting Documents**

Plumber Program Outline (2011) – Defines the full scope of knowledge and skills required to competently perform the occupation in BC.

Plumber National Occupational Analysis (2010) – 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

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Revision History

Program Approved:	March 2002
Updated:	January 2006
Updated:	July 2010
Updated:	June 2011
Updated:	April 2019

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