

UPHOLSTERER

ALSO KNOWN AS:

UPHOLDER

REUPHOLSTERY SPECIALIST

BREATHE NEW LIFE INTO FURNITURE AS AN UPHOLSTERER.

Combine traditional craftsmanship with modern design trends to transform worn-out seating into comfortable, stylish pieces. In this role, you'll work with a variety of fabrics and materials, restoring antique treasures and creating custom upholstery solutions that blend functionality with personal style.

KEY SKILLS

Skills which may benefit anyone considering a job as a upholsterer include:

☑ Furniture construction

knowledge

☑ Material knowledge

☑ Pattern making

☑ Sewing

☑ Time management

CAREER PROGRESSION

In this role, you may have the opportunity to progress to other positions. Career progression opportunities include:

- Team Leader
- Cabinet Maker
- Recreational Vehicle Manufacturing Technician
- Production Planner

RELATED INDUSTRIES

► Furniture and Other Products ► Timber and Wood

RECOMMENDED SCHOOL SUBJECTS

- Building and Construction Skills
- Engineering Skills
- Industrial Graphics Skills

CORE SCHOOL SUBJECTS

- General Mathematics
- Essential English
- Furnishing Skills

VALUES & ATTRIBUTES

Values and attributes of anyone considering a job as a upholsterer include:

☑ Attention to detail

☑ Craftsmanship

☑ Creative

☑ Solutions-focused

☑ Customer-focus

☑ Artistic – "Creator"

SALARY EXPECTATION

The expected salary for an upholsterer can vary across different areas of manufacturing and may vary as you become more experienced.

• LOW

• MEDIAN

• HIGH

\$45,000

\$60,000

\$75,000

JOB OVERVIEW

Upholsterers take tired, sagging furniture and turn it into a showpiece. In this role, you'll be part artist, part engineer, and part historian, often working to restore beloved pieces of furniture to their former glory or reimagining them for modern tastes.

Your toolkit will include an array of specialised equipment such as sewing machines, staple guns, webbing stretchers, and an extensive selection of fabrics and padding materials. You'll need to understand the construction of various types of furniture, from antique wooden frames to modern metal mechanisms.

As an upholsterer, you'll often work closely with interior designers and directly with clients to select appropriate fabrics and styles. You'll need to stay current with fabric trends and durability factors, as well as evolving furniture styles. In an age of mass-produced furniture, your skills will be increasingly valued for breathing new life into quality pieces, contributing to sustainability efforts by extending the life of existing furniture.

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

In this role, your duties may include:

1. Remove old upholstery and assess furniture frames
2. Remove, repair or replace padding and intricate support systems
3. Cut, sew, and fit new upholstery fabrics to furniture
4. Install springs, webbing, and other support materials
5. Advise clients on fabric selection and care

HOW TO BECOME A UPHOLSTERER

Becoming an upholsterer typically requires a combination of education and practical experience. To become an upholsterer, you generally need to complete an apprenticeship.

1. If you are at school, you may be able to complete a Certificate II in Furniture Making Pathways (MSF20522) or a Certificate II in Furnishing (MSF20122). This will give you a good introduction to the occupation.
2. If you have an interest in becoming an upholsterer you can apply directly to an employer. Research potential employers in your area via a search engine, social media or job site.
3. Even if there are no jobs advertised with the employer you're interested in, it can be a good idea to send a cover letter with your resume expressing your interest.

VOCATIONAL EDUCATION & TRAINING

An apprenticeship is the best way to gain employment as a furniture finisher. You can undertake the following qualifications as apprenticeships:

- Certificate III in Furniture Finishing (MSF30122)

As an apprentice you will combine work with formal training, allowing you to gain practical skills and knowledge in a specific trade while earning a salary.

Duration: Apprenticeships typically last up to 4 years for full-time participants. Part-time apprenticeships may take longer, depending on the individual's work schedule and training progress.

Work and study combination: As an apprentice, you will work either full-time or part-time while receiving formal training from a Registered Training Organisation (RTO). School-based apprenticeships may be available.

Eligibility: Generally, apprenticeships do not require any formal qualifications to enter, making them accessible to a wide range of individuals, including if you are a school leaver or someone looking to change careers. There are minimum age requirements and there may be other eligibility criteria.

Completion: On completion you will receive a nationally recognised trade qualification, showcasing your skill and experience.

Skills, qualifications, accreditations and licences

A furniture finisher may choose to pursue other training or certifications, licences and tickets. Qualifications and skills may be required to progress to supervisor or team leader positions.

Qualifications that may help you progress in this role include:

- Certificate IV in Furniture Design and Manufacturing (MSF40222)
- Diploma of Furniture Design and Manufacturing (MSF50322)

UNIVERSITY & HIGHER EDUCATION

Holding a degree in manufacturing, human resources, finance, economics, marketing or management can be helpful if you are considering taking a step into leadership or a business ownership position.