

TRADE ASSISTANT

ALSO KNOWN AS:

FABRICATION TRADE ASSISTANT

METAL TRADES ASSISTANT

MECHANICAL TRADE ASSISTANT

WORKSHOP LABOURER

WORKSHOP ASSISTANT

KEEP THINGS IN MOTION.

Be the dynamic force that keeps manufacturing projects in motion. Trade Assistants are support to skilled tradespeople across various industries. With their hands-on approach and eagerness to learn, these versatile workers are often the first step on an exciting career path in the trades. For those who aspire to build a rewarding career in manufacturing, starting as a Trade Assistant offers valuable experience and the potential for growth into skilled trades or leadership roles.

KEY SKILLS

Skills which may benefit anyone considering a job as a trade assistant include:

- ✔ Adaptable
- ✔ Basic numeracy
- ✔ Communication skills
- ✔ Manual dexterity
- ✔ Safety awareness

CAREER PROGRESSION

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

- Fabrication Tradesperson
- Electronics Tradesperson
- Engineering Technician
- Mechanical Engineering Tradesperson

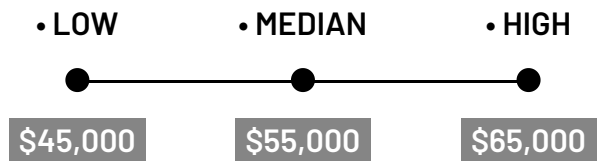
VALUES & ATTRIBUTES

Values and attributes of anyone considering a job as a trade assistant include:

- ✔ Reliable
- ✔ Team Player
- ✔ Reliable
- ✔ Willingness to learn
- ✔ Physical stamina
- ✔ Social – “Helper”

SALARY EXPECTATION

The expected salary for a Trade Assistant can vary across different areas of manufacturing and may vary as you become more experienced.



RELATED INDUSTRIES

► Aerospace and Defence ► General Manufacturing and Engineering ► Renewables ► Timber and Wood ► Transport Equipment and Machinery

RECOMMENDED SCHOOL SUBJECTS

- Engineering Skills
- Furnishing Skills
- Industrial Technology Skills
- Science in Practice

CORE SCHOOL SUBJECTS

- Essential Mathematics
- Essential English
- Design and Technologies (7-10)

JOB OVERVIEW

Trade Assistants play a vital role in supporting skilled tradespeople in manufacturing environments. They assist with a wide range of tasks, from basic manual labour to more complex operations, depending on their experience and the specific needs of the trade they're supporting. Their work contributes significantly to the efficiency and productivity of manufacturing processes, helping to keep projects on schedule and within budget.

These adaptable workers use a variety of tools and equipment in their daily tasks, from basic hand tools to more specialised machinery specific to their trade area. They need to be quick learners, able to follow instructions accurately, and have a good understanding of workplace safety procedures. Physical stamina is important, as the job often involves lifting, carrying, and working in various positions throughout the day.

In a typical day, a Trade Assistant might prepare work areas and materials, transport tools and equipment, assist with measurements and calculations, clean-up work sites, and perform basic maintenance tasks. They often work alongside qualified tradespeople, learning on the job and gradually taking on more responsibility as their skills develop. Their role is crucial in maintaining a smooth workflow and supporting the skilled workforce that drives the industry.

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

Your role may include duties as follows:

1. Assist skilled tradespeople with various tasks and projects
2. Prepare and maintain work areas, tools, and equipment
3. Perform basic measurements, calculations, and material handling
4. Follow safety procedures and maintain a clean work environment
5. Learn trade-specific skills and techniques through on-the-job training

HOW TO BECOME A TRADE ASSISTANT

Becoming a Trade Assistant typically doesn't require formal qualifications to start, making it an excellent entry point into the manufacturing and trades industries. However, on-the-job training is usually provided, and there are opportunities for further education and skill development. Here are some steps to become a Trade Assistant:

1. Complete Year 10 or equivalent education
2. Consider completing a pre-apprenticeship or Certificate II in a relevant trade area – a Certificate II in Engineering Pathways (MEM20422) offers a good introduction
3. Research potential employers online and apply for advertised positions. If you're interested in working for a specific company without current job openings, proactively submit your resume and a letter of interest.
4. Apply for entry-level Trade Assistant positions in manufacturing companies
5. Gain experience and consider specialising in a particular trade or pursuing an apprenticeship

VOCATIONAL EDUCATION & TRAINING

While not always required, vocational education and training can significantly enhance your skills and career prospects as a Trade Assistant. Here are some relevant qualifications:

- Certificate II in Engineering Pathways (MEM20422)
- Certificate II in Manufacturing Technology (MSM20216)

For those looking to advance into leadership roles or specialise further:

- Certificate III in Engineering – Fabrication Trade (MEM31922)
- Certificate III in Engineering – Fabrication Trade (Boilermaking) (MEM31922)
- Certificate III in Engineering – Fabrication Trade (Welding) (MEM31922)
- Certificate III in Engineering – Fabrication Trade (Boilermaking/welding) (MEM31922)
- Certificate III in Engineering – Fabrication Trade (Sheetmetal working) (MEM31922)
- Certificate III in Engineering – Fabrication Trade (Blacksmithing) (MEM31922)
- Certificate III in Engineering – Fabrication Trade (Surface finishing) (MEM31922)
- Certificate III in Engineering – Mechanical Trade (MEM30219)
- Certificate III in Engineering – Mechanical Trade (Machining) (MEM30219)
- Certificate III in Engineering – Mechanical Trade (Fitting) (MEM30219)
- Certificate III in Engineering – Mechanical Trade (Fitting/Machining) (MEM30219)
- Certificate IV in Engineering (MEM40119)
- Diploma of Engineering – Advanced Trade (MEM50119)

UNIVERSITY & HIGHER EDUCATION

University education is not typically required for Trade Assistant positions. However, for those looking to advance into management roles or specialised technical positions within manufacturing, a university degree can be beneficial.