

Career Profile: Building Surveyor

Whether it's the Optus Stadium, the Perth Children's Hospital, the Roe Highway extension or new apartments in South Perth, there isn't a building in Australia that doesn't require the expertise of a Building Surveyor. Building Surveyors are responsible for making sure buildings are safe to occupy, accessible and energy efficient. They have an impact on the design, planning and functionality of a building and are experts in the laws and regulations which control the construction process. They make recommendations to the appropriate authorities regarding the provision of community amenities.

Also known as: Building Certifier, Statutory Building Surveyor

What would my working day look like?

Some of the tasks you may complete are:

- ▶ Assessing and approving plans on new projects or renovations
- ▶ Inspecting construction projects at key stages
- ▶ Issuing certificates of occupancy and inspection
- ▶ Detecting and diagnosing issues with design, construction techniques and materials
- ▶ Understand, interpret and enforce building, planning and safety regulations and laws
- ▶ Manage the inspection process of a project from foundations through to completion and handover
- ▶ Serve building notices where work is not satisfactory or compliant with regulations
- ▶ Understand and interpret plans, blueprints, specifications and construction methods to ensure compliance
- ▶ Provide certificates of inspection to the builder throughout the build
- ▶ Issue occupancy certificates when the final inspection is passed
- ▶ Have a sound knowledge of the construction process on a project
- ▶ Maintain accurate records of inspections and compile reports
- ▶ Communicate with the building contractor

I might enjoy this job if:

- ▶ I enjoy building things and enjoy technical design
- ▶ I am good at Maths, English, Design and Technology, Engineering studies, Science and Legal studies
- ▶ I like fault finding and investigating why things like appliances or tools do not work how they should
- ▶ I enjoy working with other people and communicating with others
- ▶ I like working indoors, outdoors, at heights and in tight spaces

Working conditions and hours

Large portions of your day will be spent travelling to building sites carrying out inspections, monitoring progress and meeting with clients. You can expect to complete some office work using a computer to write up reports following a site visit and to interpret and read working drawings, databases to keep contact details up to date and safety gear to comply with health and safety requirements on a work site. You may work part time or full time (generally 40 hours per week) and/or on a contract basis.

How do I become a Building Surveyor?

If you're still at school, you can enrol in the Certificate II in Building and Construction-Paraprofessional (Business) pathway. Building Surveyors must have a minimum Advanced Diploma of Building Surveying and/or tertiary qualifications in building surveying or construction management and several years' practical experience to qualify for registration as a Building Surveyor. Building Surveyors in Western Australia must be registered with the **Building Services Board** and the type of registration you hold will depend on the level of your qualification and years of experience. For further information contact the Australian Institute of Building Surveyors or visit www.aibs.com.au

Future pathways and opportunities

You can work in public or private roles from local government to large firms, or you may prefer to get a few years' experience behind you first within a company and then start your own consultation business or move up to leading a team of Building Surveyor's in a large firm. With further study at University your career could lead you to become a Civil Engineer, Architect or Quantity Surveyor.

Average Pay

\$1,838-\$2,000
per week

depending on your qualifications
and experience

(Source: Job Outlook)

What skills and personal qualities do I need?

- ▶ Have a careful, methodical, and accurate approach to work
- ▶ Have good communication and interpersonal skills
- ▶ Have a strong awareness of safety issues
- ▶ Have good maths and literacy skills
- ▶ Be a problem solver and good active listening skills
- ▶ Enjoy working outdoors and be physically fit



Next Steps

Further information can be found at:

- ▶ Jobs and Skills WA – www.jobsandskills.wa.gov.au
- ▶ The Good Universities Guide – www.gooduniversitiesguide.com.au
- ▶ Job Outlook – www.joboutlook.gov.au