

Career Profile: Earthworks Supervisor



The Earthworks Supervisor specifically oversees the foundations of a project. This role is the first point of contact during the initial preparatory work of a project for all contractors on site. Depending on the size of the project they may oversee the whole project from design through to coordination of all construction activities.

Earthworks Supervisors can work on many different projects including residential, commercial developments or large-scale civil infrastructure projects.

What would my working day look like?

Some of the tasks you may complete are:

- ▶ Overseeing the plant earthworks and concrete foundations of a project
- ▶ Manage a concrete contractor and supervise the pouring of foundations
- ▶ Oversee the plant earthworks on a project and ensuring the foundation for the concrete is prepared
- ▶ Read and interpret blueprints, plans and technical drawings
- ▶ Manage contractor performance and report to the area manager or other managers working on the project
- ▶ Schedule contractors to perform their duties at specified dates and times
- ▶ Monitor progress, personnel and equipment required on site
- ▶ Ensure work on site is conducted safely and in line with relevant regulations
- ▶ Organise and manage a constantly changing workload
- ▶ Give clear and precise instructions to tradespeople on site

I might enjoy this job if:

- ▶ I enjoy working outdoors and want to work in a practical, manual job
- ▶ I plan to complete an apprenticeship/traineeship in civil construction
- ▶ I enjoy Maths, Engineering and the manual subjects at school such as woodwork or metalwork
- ▶ I have good organisational and listening skills
- ▶ I enjoy taking on leadership roles at school
- ▶ I can work under pressure to meet deadlines and keep a level head

Working conditions and hours

Your work could see you working on new residential, commercial developments and / or civil engineering projects. You will usually work outdoors leading and overseeing the supervision of a team. At times you may need to work after hours and on weekends. You will work full time (generally 44 hours per week) and it may be on a contract basis or permanent position. Your hours will depend on where you work and the type of project.

How do I become an Earthworks Supervisor?

To become an Earthworks Supervisor, you need several years' experience in civil construction, preferably earthworks and may hold a vocational qualification. Many Earthworks Supervisors may start in a trade such as concreting then build up on site experience before moving into a supervisory role. They may also start out as a Civil Construction Worker.

To become a qualified tradesperson, you will need to complete an apprenticeship in a trades based area which can take anywhere from 24-48 months; or to work in civil construction you may like to complete a traineeship in civil construction that can be completed in 12-24 months. Once you have some experience you can then complete a Certificate IV in Civil Construction Supervision.

If you're still at school, you can enrol in the Certificate II in Building and Construction-Trades pathway or Certificate II in Civil Construction as part of your WACE.

Future pathways and opportunities

Future career development may lead you to becoming an Area Manager or Civil Construction Manager. With further study your career could lead you to completing a degree in civil engineering or construction management.

Average Pay

Approximately
\$70-\$90 per hour
depending on your qualifications,
experience and shift work

(Source: www.seek.com.au)

What skills and personal qualities do I need?

- ▶ Can solve problems and find solutions using critical thinking skills
- ▶ Enjoy doing a practical job
- ▶ Can demonstrate a safety conscious approach to my work
- ▶ Have leadership skills and can multitask
- ▶ Be physically fit and enjoy working outdoors
- ▶ Have excellent communication and interpersonal skills
- ▶ Have good time management and organisational skills



Next Steps

Further information can be found at:

- ▶ Job Outlook – www.joboutlook.gov.au
- ▶ Australian Apprenticeship Support Network Providers – www.aapathways.gov.au