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## Cement Mason & Concrete Finisher

### Job Description

Smooth and finish surfaces of placed concrete, such as floors, walks, sidewalks, roads, or curbs using a variety of hand and power tools. Align forms for sidewalks, curbs, or gutters; patch voids; and use saws to cut expansion joints.

### Work Conditions

Concrete work is fast paced and strenuous and often involves kneeling, bending, and reaching. Because many jobs are outdoors, work generally stops in wet weather and on outdoor construction in the winter.

### How to Become a Cement Mason or Concrete Finisher

Concrete work is strenuous and often involves kneeling, bending, and reaching.

Although most cement masons and terrazzo workers learn on the job, some learn their trade through an apprenticeship.

- **Education**

Although there are no specific education requirements for cement masons and concrete finishers, terrazzo workers usually must have a high school diploma. High school courses in math, mechanical drawing, and blueprint reading are considered to be helpful.

- **Training**

Most on-the-job training programs consist of experienced workers teaching helpers to use the tools, equipment, machines, and materials of the trade. Trainees begin with tasks such as edging, jointing, and using a straightedge on freshly placed concrete. As training progresses, assignments become more complex and trainees can usually perform finishing tasks more quickly.

- Some cement masons learn their trade through a 3-year apprenticeship. Each year, apprentices must have at least 144 hours of technical instruction and 2,000 hours of paid on-the-job training. Apprentices learn construction basics such as blueprint reading, mathematics, building code requirements, and safety and first-aid practices. Apprentices also learn about the wide variety of materials and additives that can change color or allow concrete to cure in different conditions. After completing an apprenticeship program, cement masons are considered to be journey workers, qualifying them to do tasks on their own.
- Several groups, including unions and contractor associations, sponsor apprenticeship programs. The basic qualifications for entering an apprenticeship program are as follows:
  - Minimum age of 18
  - High school education or equivalent
  - Physically able to do the work
- Some contractors have their own cement masonry or terrazzo training programs. Although workers may enter apprenticeships directly, many start out as [construction laborers and helpers](#).



Associated General Contractors of North Dakota  
22 North Second Street, PO Box 1624, Bismarck, ND 58502  
(800) 472-2120, (701) 223-2770  
[www.agcnd.org](http://www.agcnd.org)



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- **Important Qualities**

- **Color vision**

Terrazzo workers must determine small color variances when setting terrazzo patterns. Because these patterns often include many different colors, terrazzo workers must be able to distinguish between colors for the best looking finish.

- **Physical stamina**

Cement masons and terrazzo workers must be able to spend a lot of time kneeling, bending, and reaching.

- **Physical strength**

Cement masons and terrazzo workers often must lift heavy materials. For example, many jobs require workers to be able to lift and carry 50-pound bags of gravel and sand.

### **Wage Information:**

The table below shows the estimated Employment Wage Statistics for individuals in North Dakota employed as Cement Masons and Concrete Finishers in 2013.

<b>Rate Type</b>	<b>Entry level</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>Experienced</b>
Annual Wage	\$29,930	\$36,680	\$40,060
Hourly Wage	\$14.39	\$17.63	\$19.26

For more information [click here](#).



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