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Drywall Installer and Taper, and Ceiling Tile Installer

Job Description

Drywall and ceiling tile installers hang wallboards to walls and ceilings and install ceiling tile inside buildings. Tapers prepare the wallboards for painting, using tape and other materials. Many workers do both installing and taping.

Work Conditions

Drywall and ceiling tile installers and tapers spend most of the day standing, bending, or stretching. Injuries include falls from ladders or stilts, cuts from sharp tools, and muscle strains from lifting heavy materials. The work also can produce dust, which can irritate the skin, eyes, and lungs.

How to Become a Drywall and Ceiling Tile Installer, or Taper

New drywallers typically learn their job by working with more experienced workers.

Although most drywall and ceiling tile installers and tapers learn their trade on the job, some learn through an apprenticeship.

- **Education**

Although there are no education requirements to become a drywall installer, high school math and general shop courses are considered useful.

- **Training**

Most drywall and ceiling tile installers and tapers learn their trade on the job by helping more experienced workers and gradually being given more duties. They start by carrying materials and cleaning up, and then learn to use the tools of the trade. They also learn to measure, cut, and install or apply materials. Employers usually provide some on-the-job training, lasting up to 12 months.

- A few drywall and ceiling tile installers and tapers learn their trade through a 3- or 4-year apprenticeship. For each year of the program, apprentices must have at least 144 hours of related technical work and 2,000 hours of paid on-the-job training. During training, apprentices learn construction basics related to blueprint reading, mathematics, building code requirements, and safety and first-aid practices.
- After completing an apprenticeship program, installers and tapers are considered journey workers and may perform duties on their own.
- A few groups, including unions and contractor associations, sponsor apprenticeship programs. The basic qualifications for entering such a program are as follows:
 - Minimum age of 18
 - High school education or equivalent
 - Physically able to perform the work



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- **Important Qualities**

- **Math skills**

- Drywall and ceiling tile installers and tapers use basic math skills on every job. For example, they must be able to estimate the quantity of materials needed and measure accurately when cutting panels.

- **Physical stamina**

- Because installers and tapers constantly lift and move heavy materials into place, workers should be in good physical shape.

- **Physical strength**

- Standard drywall sheets can weigh 50 to 100 pounds. Drywall and ceiling tile installers often must lift heavy panels over their heads to secure onto the ceiling.

Wage Information:

The table below shows the estimated Employment Wage Statistics for individuals in North Dakota employed as Drywall Installer – Taper and Ceiling Tile Installer in 2013.

Rate Type	Entry level	Mean	Experienced
Annual Wage	\$28,930	\$36,720	\$40,610
Hourly Wage	\$13.91	\$17.65	\$19.52

For more information [click here](#).



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