

BUILD OHIO

YOUR FUTURE IN CONSTRUCTION STARTS HERE

Superintendent

There are many types of construction superintendents and their job titles, job descriptions, and responsibilities vary a great deal from one company to another. This can be confusing, and there are no hard and fast rules or definitions which apply to all construction firms, all construction projects, or all supervisory positions. A general sequence of titles is indicated below, but it must be noted that many are used interchangeably, and duties will vary by firm and project(s) size. The thing to remember, therefore, is that the position of superintendent involves increasing degrees of responsibility and authority—regardless of the title.

Nature of Work

Generally speaking, a construction manager is the contractor's representative at a construction site. The superintendent directs and coordinates the activities of the various trade groups such as carpenters, equipment operators, iron workers, etc., on site. Responsibilities include making sure that the work progresses according to schedule, that material and equipment are delivered to the site on time, and that the activities of the various workers do not interfere with one another. The superintendent supervises all these activities by talking with and directing the foremen for the different trades or craft workers. Some of these foremen and their workers may be employed by the construction managers own construction company, while others may be employed by other companies working on the job.

Education and Training

Most superintendents have many years of experience in one or more of the construction trades. Generally, contractors have selected their superintendents from among the foremen who demonstrate leadership and a working knowledge of their craft. While a college education is not necessarily required, it is helpful. A superintendent must have a good understanding of construction methods, scheduling, and blueprint reading, as well as a basic knowledge of communications skills. Demonstrated leadership ability is essential.

Advancement Potential

Depending upon the size of the firm (and the job titles used by that firm), job or project superintendents may become general superintendents. Superintendents often become principal officers of their construction firm, and on occasion start their own company.

Wage Averages for Ohio (Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2013)

Hourly: \$37.73

Annual: \$87,510





REALSTORIES

REAL PEOPLE

Marv - Superintendent

YEARS WORKING IN THE INDUSTRY?

39 +

HOW DID YOU BEGIN YOUR CAREER?

My entire family is in the construction industry, including my father and four brothers.

WHAT ATTRACTED YOU TO THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY?

My family was in construction. Growing up, it was a good opportunity to follow the same path.

WHAT DO YOU ENJOY MOST ABOUT YOUR JOB?

Meeting new and interesting people and working with different owners. The new challenge of each new project.

BEST ADVICE

Always work hard. Build the job like you are building the project for yourself.

BEST EXPERIENCE

Working with my father for over 20+ years. I learned the best practices from my father. Basically, "how to do it right".