

## Construction and Building Inspector

### ***Nature of Work***

Inspect structures using engineering skills to determine structural soundness and compliance with specifications, building codes, and other regulations. Inspections may be general in nature or may be limited to a specific area, such as electrical systems or plumbing.

The building inspection process begins with a plan approved by the city or county. The building inspector visits the site during the first phase of work and periodically thereafter. He/she maintains records of inspections using paper forms, computer applications, and photographs. Additionally, specialized building inspectors may be required for larger or complex jobs, including structural, electrical, plumbing, or mechanical inspector.

### ***Work Environment***

Construction and building inspectors spend considerable time inspecting worksites, alone or as part of a team. Some inspectors may have to climb ladders or crawl in tight spaces. Most work full time during regular business hours.

### ***Education and Training***

Workers typically need a high school diploma or equivalent and more than five years of related work experience to enter this occupation. Those with an Associate's degree have a competitive advantage in the labor market. Increasingly, potential building inspectors are earning a college degree, which, in some cases, is regarded as equivalent to previous experience. In addition, moderate-term on-the-job training is typically needed, once employed, to attain competency in the skills needed in this occupation. Many states and local jurisdictions require some type of license or certification. Generally, a candidate needs to meet experience and education prerequisites, as well as passing an exam.

### ***Wages (Average, State of Oregon, 2013)***

- **Hourly:** \$29.83
- **Annual:** \$62,044

