

Hiring qualified tradespeople in Ontario

One of the main responsibilities of the Ontario College of Trades (the College) is to ensure that individuals performing the skills of a compulsory trade have the training and certification required to legally practise this trade in Ontario. The College is also responsible for establishing the scope of practice and setting out policies and procedure for the trades.

There are currently 22 skilled trades that are designated “compulsory” (electrician, plumber, automotive service technician, etc) in Ontario. In order to practice in a compulsory trade, an individual must be one of the following:

- ✓ A licensed journeyperson – a holder of a valid Certificate of Qualification (C of Q); or
- ✓ A registered apprentice with the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities (MTCU);
or
- ✓ A journeyperson candidate; or
- ✓ A holder of a provisional C of Q.

A list of compulsory trades can be found on the College’s [website](#). Every trade that is not identified as compulsory is, by default, voluntary. Certification is offered in some voluntary trades, but is not a requirement to practise in that trade.

Search the College’s [Public Register](#) to check the qualifications of trades’ professionals who are members of the College.

To learn more about the Ontario College of Trades, visit their website at:
<http://www.collegeoftrades.ca/>.