



Make a material difference



**Build your future
in the building
materials industry**

**YOUR SKILLS.
YOUR FUTURE.
YOUR CAREER.**

Leaving school is a big step

Whether you have left school already or are about to take the plunge this year, the next steps can feel overwhelming.

So many routes to consider...

Apprenticeship?

Further education?

Should I do a gap year?

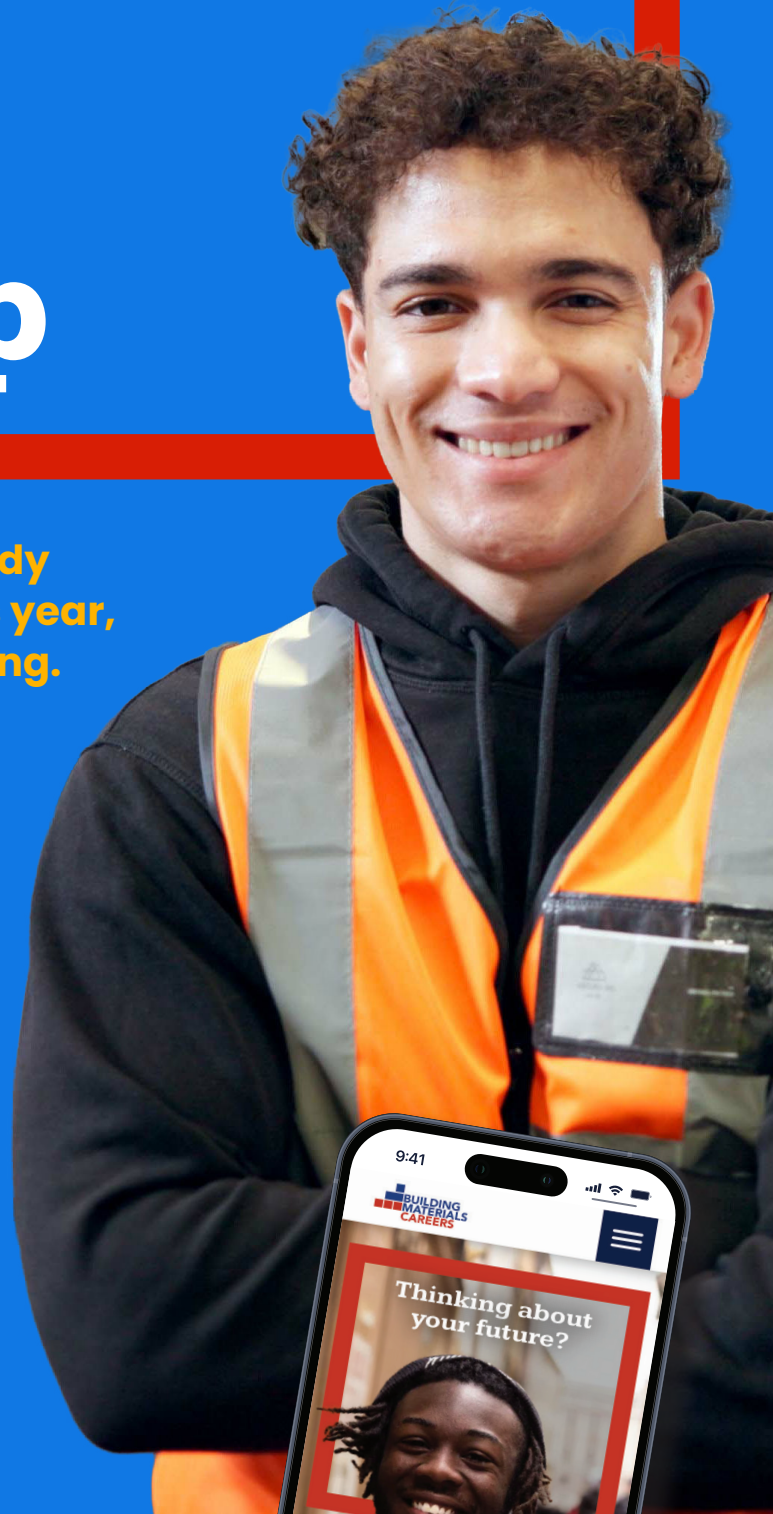
Am I ready for my first full-time job?

Whatever you're considering, take a look at the building materials sector.

Exciting opportunities with real career progression, professional training and long-term stability await.



Scan the QR code for more information



What is the building materials sector?



This is an industry that helps build Britain, supplying the materials, products and expertise needed for homes, schools, hospitals, transport networks and major infrastructure projects across the UK.

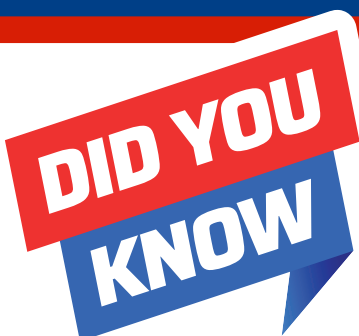
- Builders' merchants
- Timber merchants
- Plumbing and heating suppliers
- Roofing specialists
- Landscaping suppliers
- Distribution and logistics companies
- Manufacturers



Materially different

Together, these businesses support construction projects across the UK every single day for almost everything built in Britain.

This is a modern industry looking for ambitious young people ready to build successful careers.



The UK construction and building materials industry supports millions of jobs and is one of the country's most important economic sectors.



Why you should consider this industry

The building materials sector offers more than you'd expect.

*It's modern, technology-driven, sustainability-focused, fast-moving, customer-centric **and** essential to the UK economy.*

No previous experience is needed in this sector to succeed.

What matters most is:

- ✓ A positive attitude
- ✓ Reliability
- ✓ Communication skills
- ✓ Teamwork
- ✓ Willingness to learn
- ✓ Motivation and ambition



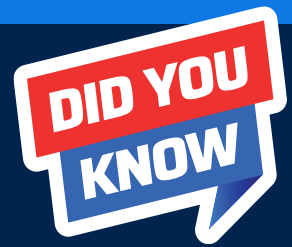
**DID YOU
KNOW**

Many senior leaders in building materials started their careers straight from school as apprentices or trainees.



Careers with real opportunities

There are career pathways for every type of personality and skillset.



A builders' merchant is like a giant supply chain hub.

Thousands of products must be sourced, stocked and delivered to the right place at the right time. Behind every successful construction project is a skilled logistics, warehouse and transport team, keeping materials moving.

1 Customer service

Perfect for people who enjoy teamwork, customer interaction and practical problem-solving.

Roles include:

Trade counter assistant	Branch supervisor
Yard operative	Branch manager
Customer service adviser	Branch operations

2 Logistics and supply chain

Keep products moving across the UK.
Ideal for organised, motivated individuals.

Roles include:

Warehouse operations	Fleet operations
Transport coordination	Supply chain planning
Stock management	



3 Sales and customer relationships

Great for confident communicators and future leaders.

Opportunities include:

Internal sales	Business development
External sales	Marketing
Account management	Public relations



4 Technical and specialist careers

Become an expert in specialist products and systems.

Technical careers can lead to professional qualifications and leadership opportunities.

Specialist sectors include:

Timber	Plumbing and heating
Civils	Construction products
Renewable technologies	Sustainability

5 Apprenticeships that build careers

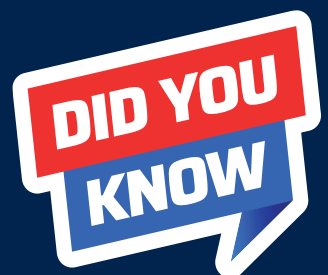
An apprenticeship is one of the best ways to start your career.

You can earn while you learn in a range of different settings:

Trade supply	Warehousing
Business administration	Sales
Customer service	Management

Apprenticeships provide: -

- Paid employment
- Recognised qualifications
- Career progression
- Practical experience
- Long-term opportunities



Building materials businesses are helping to create a more sustainable future.

The sector is investing in low-carbon products, recycling initiatives, responsible sourcing and greener transport solutions to help reduce the environmental impact of construction.

From school leaver to industry leader

Your career pathway could look like this:



This industry rewards ambition, commitment and leadership.





What employers are looking for

**Employers across
the sector value
people who:**

DID YOU KNOW

Many businesses in the sector are family-owned companies that have served local communities for generations.

- ✓ **Work well in teams**
- ✓ **Communicate confidently**
- ✓ **Take responsibility**
- ✓ **Show initiative**
- ✓ **Want to learn new skills**
- ✓ **Are reliable and professional**

School achievements, volunteering, sports teams, Duke of Edinburgh Awards, STEM activities and part-time jobs all help demonstrate valuable employability skills.

What do I do now?



STEP 1 – Build your CV

Include:

- ✓ School achievements
- ✓ Leadership responsibilities
- ✓ Volunteering
- ✓ Sports teams
- ✓ STEM activities
- ✓ Work experience
- ✓ Public speaking or event organisation
- ✓ Qualifications and awards



Employers want to see your potential as much as your experience.

STEP 2 – Explore your options

Visit the **BM Careers Hub** here

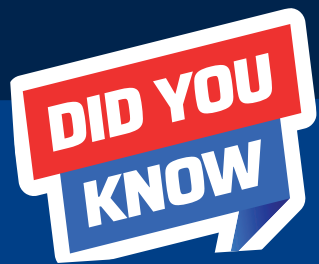
The platform helps young people explore hundreds of career pathways across the building materials industry, including apprenticeships, training opportunities, employer profiles, open days and industry advice.



You can:

- ✓ Explore career pathways
- ✓ Discover apprenticeship opportunities
- ✓ Research employers
- ✓ Upload your CV
- ✓ Access career advice
- ✓ Request further information and support

Explore www.bmcareers.com



Women are underrepresented in the construction supply chain. That means huge opportunities for the next generation to shape a more diverse industry.



Case Study

From apprentice to marketing manager – in under four years

If you are considering a career where you can earn, learn and progress quickly, this sector could surprise you.

From marketing to logistics, apprenticeships can open doors to careers you may never have considered – just ask Kasey Barnes AIBM, Marketing Manager, E. Tupling.

Just three and a half years ago, Kasey knew very little about the building materials industry. Today, she's the marketing manager of E. Tupling, a plumbing and heating distributor and is studying for her Level 4 Marketing Apprenticeship.

Her journey is proof that where you start isn't where you have to finish.

Kasey joined the business as a customer service co-ordinator, taking customer calls and responding to emails. But rather than seeing customer service as her destination, Kasey saw it as an opportunity to learn about the business.

When she shared her ambition to move into marketing, her employer listened and gave her the chance to develop a brand-new career while completing a Level 3 Marketing Apprenticeship, gaining real experience and a recognised qualification at the same time.

"The opportunities in this industry are endless. If you're willing to learn, work hard and put yourself forward, people will

back you. I never imagined I'd go from customer service to Marketing Manager in such a short space of time, but this industry gave me that chance."

For Kasey, one of the biggest surprises has been the people.

"The building materials sector might not seem the obvious choice when you're leaving school, but it's full of people who genuinely want to help you succeed."

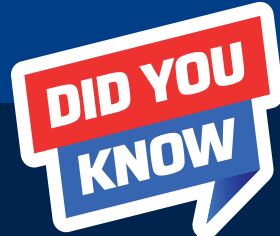
"I've been encouraged every step of the way and given opportunities I never thought I'd have."

Her advice to anyone thinking about their next step?

"Don't judge this industry by first impressions."

"There are so many different careers here, and if you want somewhere you can grow, challenge yourself and build a future, this could be the place for you."

Your career could start with an apprenticeship too. Where will it take you?



The average person comes into contact with products from the building materials industry every day.

The homes we live in, the schools we attend, the shops we visit and the roads we travel on all depend on materials supplied through this sector.

BMCareers is designed to help school leavers connect their interests, skills and ambitions with rewarding long-term careers

A young man with short brown hair and blue eyes, smiling, wearing a black jacket with yellow high-visibility stripes.

Building materials needs future talent

This is a sector with:

- ✓ Long-term career stability
- ✓ Opportunities for progression
- ✓ Professional development
- ✓ Modern technology
- ✓ Sustainability-focused innovation
- ✓ Diversity and inclusivity
- ✓ Real earning potential

Britain needs the next generation of skilled professionals to help build the future.

There has never been a better time to explore opportunities in the building materials sector, which is becoming more diverse than ever before.

Businesses across the sector are actively encouraging more women, people from minority backgrounds and individuals from different career paths to join, bringing fresh ideas and perspectives to the industry.



Start your journey today

Explore careers...

Learn more about the industry...

Explore wider construction careers...

Find apprenticeship information...

Everything you need to know is here

Build your future with the building materials industry

**Skills for life.
Careers for the future.
Your journey starts here.**

**Help shape the
world we live in**



BMCareers is run by the
Builders Merchants Federation



So, what are you waiting for, take the next step...

Explore bmcareers.com

**The place to explore roles and opportunities
in Building Materials.**

- Explore the world of Building Materials
- Discover what roles might suit you best
- Find work experience, apprenticeships, open days
- Research employers and find the ones closest to you
- Send us your profile details so you can get noticed
- Join our social media communities

If you're looking for a job that can
take many paths and will help make
a difference to the world around you –
we're looking for people like you.



Make a material difference



BUILDING MATERIALS CAREERS

Make a material difference

We're looking
for people
like you!

