

Let's TRADE Thoughts

"Plumbing, HVAC, & electrical trades are one of the best career choices in today's world IMO. In today's society, we see many work opportunities being automated. I believe these trades are almost impossible to automate. Did you know, during the peak of the pandemic my plumbing and heating crew were considered essential? My crew worked full time through the pandemic. (Everyone is essential IMO) Most good paying jobs require years of college that cost an arm and a leg. In these trades, you get paid for your training. When you complete the apprenticeship program, the license you hold is a ticket to work wherever you want to go. Most of the things you learn are priceless. I have just recently built a home in the mountains. Using the skills I've learned over the years, I was able to do lots of the work myself. When you think about your future and what type of career you want to build for yourself, consider one of these trades. Getting into the trades changed my life."

-Joe McMillan, Owner, All About You Plumbing, Great Falls

On the importance of Master license holders, "Any hours that a Master certifies for employees who are apprentices or journeymen applying for a journeyman or masters license must be done while under that Master's employ. If the Master is not contracted or subcontracted as part of a job, those hours are not attributed to either the registered apprentice or the licensed journeyman because they are not working as employees under said Master. If the Master signs on as a contractor or subcontractor to a joint project, those employees are paid by the Master or their shop and their OJT hours counted towards their license with those hours defined as legally obtained hours of practical experience.

Master licenses are a valuable asset either alone or as the Master of Record with a shop and/or in partnership or agreement with another contractor or subcontractor. I urge apprentices to show appreciation in working with an owner who has sustained a company in the wild ride of this economy while you are pursuing your own goals and licenses under their umbrella. "

-Liz Ching, Registered Apprenticeship Specialist, Billings

Do you have a TRADE thought you'd like to share? Please email Shauna Johnson at shauna.johnson@mt.gov