

Drywall Installers, Ceiling Tile Installers, and Tapers

SOC: 47-2080 • Career Profile Report

■ Key Facts

\$58,800

Median Salary

118,600

Employment

+4.0%

Growth Rate

■ Requirements & Salary Range

Education: No formal educational credential

■ Automation Risk Assessment

Medium Risk - 35.0% probability of being automated in the next 10-20 years.

This job has some routine elements but still requires human judgment and interaction.

■■ Work-Life Balance

5.1/10 - Fair work-life balance

■ Personality Fit (RIASEC)

Higher scores indicate better personality fit for this career type.

Realistic	9.4/10	Investigative	5.8/10
Artistic	4.0/10	Social	5.0/10
Enterprising	5.0/10	Conventional	6.0/10

■ Top Skills Required

Ability to work at heights, Attention to detail, Balance, Dexterity, Math skills, Physical stamina, Physical strength

✓ Strengths

- High Demand
- Flexible Work
- Continuous Learning

■ Challenges

- Burnout Risk
- Rapid Technological Change

■ What They Do

Drywall Installers, Ceiling Tile Installers, and Tapers construct, install, and finish **walls, ceilings, and partitions using drywall, plasterboard, or ceiling tiles**. They measure, cut, assemble, and smooth surfaces to prepare them for painting or finishing. Their work is critical in construction, renovation, and interior finishing.

This career is well suited for individuals who enjoy hands-on construction work, precision, and problem-solving.

What Do Drywall Installers, Ceiling Tile Installers, and Tapers Do?

These professionals assemble, install, and finish wall and ceiling materials to create smooth, durable surfaces.

Common responsibilities include:

- Measuring and marking surfaces to guide installation
- Cutting and shaping drywall, plasterboard, or ceiling tiles
- Installing panels and securing them with nails, screws, or adhesives
- Applying joint compound, tape, and finishing techniques to seams and corners
- Sanding and smoothing surfaces for painting or decoration
- Inspecting finished work for quality and adherence to specifications
- Maintaining tools, equipment, and clean work areas

Key Areas of Drywall and Ceiling Installation

Installers may specialize in certain materials or techniques:

- Drywall Installation: Assembling walls and partitions in residential or commercial buildings
- Ceiling Tile Installation: Installing acoustic or decorative ceiling panels
- Taping and Finishing: Applying joint compound and smoothing surfaces for painting
- Repair and Maintenance: Fixing damaged walls or ceilings
- Measurement and Material Cutting: Ensuring accurate sizing and fit for panels

Skills and Abilities Needed

These workers combine technical skill, physical ability, and attention to detail.

Core Professional Skills

Personal Qualities That Matter

Education and Career Pathway

This role typically requires vocational training or on-the-job experience:

- High School Diploma or GED (minimum): Basic math, measurement, and technical skills
- Apprenticeship or Vocational Training: Learning installation, finishing, and safety techniques
- On-the-Job Training: Gaining practical experience in construction projects
- Certification (optional): Industry or union credentials in drywall or ceiling installation
- Continuous Learning: Staying current on materials, methods, and safety standards

Where Do Drywall Installers, Ceiling Tile Installers, and Tapers Work?

They are employed in construction, renovation, and building maintenance:

- Residential and Commercial Construction
- Renovation and Remodeling Projects
- Industrial and Institutional Facilities

- Construction Subcontracting Companies
- Self-Employed or Independent Contracting

Work environments include construction sites, indoor and outdoor locations, and partially finished buildings.

Is This Career Difficult?

This career requires physical strength, precision, and technical skill. Workers must handle heavy materials, perform repetitive tasks, and maintain quality and safety standards.

Who Should Consider This Career?

This career may be a strong fit if you:

- Enjoy hands-on construction and working with building materials
- Are detail-oriented and precise
- Can perform physically demanding tasks
- Are safety-conscious and reliable
- Want a career creating and finishing walls, ceilings, and partitions

How to Prepare Early

- Take courses in construction, industrial arts, or technical drawing
- Gain experience through apprenticeships, vocational programs, or part-time construction work
- Practice measuring, cutting, and installing drywall or ceiling materials
- Learn finishing techniques, sanding, and smoothing surfaces
- Study safety procedures and proper use of tools and equipment

Drywall installers, ceiling tile installers, and tapers create smooth, durable surfaces in buildings, ensuring quality, safety, and aesthetic appeal in construction projects.

*Generated by StartRight • Data from U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics & O*NET*

Source: <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/construction-and-extraction/drywall-and-ceiling-tile-installers-and-tapers.htm>