

Careers in gasfitting



Creating a safer state
with electricity and gas

Gasfitting in Victoria

The widespread use of gas in Victoria ensures ongoing demand for well-trained gasfitters able to install and maintain installations and appliances.

Gasfitting in Victoria dates back to the 1850s, when town gas was manufactured from coal. During the 1960s the Gas and Fuel Corporation of Victoria operated a large program to connect natural gas from Bass Strait to Victorian homes and businesses. This included the conversion of almost 1.3 million gas appliances in over 500,000 homes.

Today natural gas is one of the major sources of energy used for the purpose of both heating and cooking in our homes. Likewise, there is extensive use of propane gas for cooking and heating in areas without access to natural gas. It is a highly efficient use of natural resources but the safe use of gas relies heavily on a highly skilled and regulated workforce.

Control and regulation of gasfitting is shared between the Victorian Building Authority and Energy Safe Victoria.

Victorian Building Authority

The Victorian Building Authority regulates and licences plumbing practitioners, including gasfitters, and ensures an efficient and competitive plumbing industry. It is responsible for all standard (domestic or light commercial) gas installations and conducts random audits and inspections to ensure work is in accordance with the standard for gas installations.

Energy Safe Victoria

Energy Safe Victoria is the Government technical regulator responsible for the safe use of gas in Victoria. It is responsible for the acceptance of Complex Gas Installations and Type B gas appliances.

It also oversees the design, construction and maintenance of pipeline networks and ensures gas appliances meet safety and energy efficiency standards.

Energy Safe Victoria also investigates incidents and issues involving the supply or use of gas.

What is gasfitting

Gasfitting is a class of plumbing work and includes the construction, installation, servicing, repair and modification of any piping, appliances or fluing for the supply and use of gas.

Becoming a gasfitter

Gasfitting as a class of plumbing is open to plumbers, plumbing apprentices or any person with the drive and motivation to undertake the necessary training.

Plumbers who do not already include gasfitting under their registration or licence can apply to the VBA for consideration of their previous training and work experience. Similarly, apprentices need to apply to the VBA who will consider their scope of work experience and the results of training they have undertaken.

A person who has not been, or is not, a registered apprentice must contact the VBA to discuss the requirements for registration and licensing.

Licensing of gasfitters

In Victoria a gasfitter must be registered or licensed with the Victorian Building Authority to legally carry out gasfitting work. To obtain your registration, you must complete a plumbing apprenticeship of a minimum four years, including the completion of the Certificate III in Plumbing and successfully pass the VBA examination for that class of work.

Gasfitters seeking a licence should complete additional training at Certificate IV level in both core plumbing competencies and in gasfitting.

A Registered Plumber is legally able to complete works up to a value of \$750. For works in excess of this value a licenced person is required to either conduct the work, or to certify the work of the registered plumber.

Further information regarding the registration and licensing requirements is available through the Victorian Building Authority.

Training options

Since the demise of the Gas and Fuel Corporation of Victoria in the late 1990s, gasfitter training is delivered by a number of TAFE colleges and Registered Training Organisations.

Energy Safe Victoria works closely with these organisations to ensure that potential trainees are aware of the options, that they select the appropriate training and are aware of the licensing structure in Victoria.

Specialised classes

Gasfitting also includes a number of specialised classes such as:

- Type A appliance servicing
- Type A appliance conversion work
- Type B gasfitting
- Type B gasfitting—Advanced

Type A appliances are generally domestic or commercial appliances, while Type B appliances tend to be specialised commercial or industrial equipment.

Some training providers offer Specialised Training options such as:

- Type A Gas Appliance Servicing
- Type B Gas Appliance Servicing

Prospective students should enquire to the training provider about these options.



Registered training organisations

Bendigo TAFE

1300 554 248

www.bendigotafe.edu.au

Box Hill Institute

1300 269 445

www.boxhill.edu.au

Chisholm Institute

1300 244 746

www.chisholm.edu.au

Federation Training

1300 133 717

www.federationtraining.edu.au

Gordon Institute of TAFE

1300 851 428

www.thegordon.edu.au

GOTAFE (Goulbourn Ovens Institute of TAFE)

1300 468 233

www.gotafe.vic.edu.au

Holmesglen Institute

1300 639 888

www.holmesglen.edu.au

Melbourne Polytechnic

(03) 9269 8400

www.melbournepolytechnic.edu.au

Plumbing Industry Climate Action Centre

(03) 9356 8902

www.picac.vic.edu.au

Riverina Institute

1300 823 374

www.rit.tafensw.edu.au

RMIT University

(03) 9925 2000

www.rmit.edu.au

South West TAFE

1300 648 911

www.swtafe.vic.edu.au

Sunraysia Institute of TAFE

1300 478 648

www.sunitafe.edu.au

Swinburne University of Technology

1300 275 794

www.swinburne.edu.au

Victoria Polytechnic

1300 823 387

www.vu.edu.au/victoriapolytechnic

Contact information

Energy Safe Victoria

1800 652 563

www.esv.vic.gov.au

Victorian Building Authority

1300 815 127

www.vba.vic.gov.au

For further information go to
www.esv.vic.gov.au or phone
ESV's Gas technical helpline
on **1800 652 563**.



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