



Shoemaker

Description

Shoemakers make and repair shoes. They make comfortable and beautiful shoes, sandals, boots and other types of footwear. Shoemakers repair all types of shoes: sew or glue parts, replace heels and soles, place or insert fabrics, paint, make shoe insoles and many other things. They custom-fit ready-made shoes and make simple orthopedic adjustments. A shoemaker can resole your shoes instead of throwing them away due to worn down soles and bring back life into the old shoes. Sometimes, shoemakers make custom-made shoes as requested by the customers that would fit them perfectly. They work with leather and other materials. They use hand tools and special machines in their work and take care and maintain them.

Shoemakers not only make and repair shoes, but also sell them. They often run their own business, i.e. have their own shoemaker's store. In that case they are responsible for purchase of material and tools, administration, planning, communication and advising of customers. Also, they sell additional products such as shoe laces or products for cleaning and maintaining shoes. However, regardless of his position, a shoemaker must have a "good eye", manual dexterity, patience and good sense of shape and form.

Desirable traits/requirements

- Manual ability/ hand skills;
- Creativity and sense of shape and colour;
- Attention to detail;
- Precision and responsibility;
- Communication skills and politeness;
- Being well-organized;
- Patience.

Positive aspects:

- Shoemakers are skilful and use various tools. They create pieces of art with their manual dexterity and patience. If they work at shoemaker's shops, they communicate with customers and give them advice.

Negative aspects:

- A shoemaker has to be precise in his work, and often fast, too. This work requires sitting for long periods. Handmade shoes require a lot of devoted work and time, therefore being expensive, which may reduce demand for them.

Career path/ fields of work

Shoemaker's job requires completion of a three-year secondary vocational education.

A shoemaker may work in large and small factories, shoemaker's workshops and shops, run his own business or make-to-order.