What does a floorlayer do?
Floorlayers are responsible for installing various types of flooring materials, including carpet, laminates, and vinyl, in addition to working on sports surfaces. Work often requires expertise in architect and interior designer specifications. Knowledge of tools, adhesives, and fastening systems is essential.

How do I get started?
Your first step is entering an apprenticeship program. The UBC is among the best in North America in apprenticeship training through its local training centers. Your hometown will have a local UBC-affiliated training center close by.

What are the working conditions?
Most of the work is done indoors, except for outdoor installation of carpets and sports surfaces. Work is often done based on specifications of architects and interior designers. Floorlayers are trained to work safely, wearing personal protective equipment, including hardhats, safety glasses, durable clothing, and safety shoes.

What are the hours?
Floorlayers are “morning people,” with work days usually starting around 7 a.m. However, if a project is fast-tracked, alternative shifts may be needed.

What is the pay?
Floorlayers are paid by the hour, and union members receive “time-and-a-half” or “double-time” for all work done beyond eight hours. Apprentices earn a good wage and start earning benefits from the first day of apprenticeship. Regular raises, usually every six months, bring you to the full journeyman scale at the end of the apprenticeship program.

What about job security?
Professional floorlayers are members of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America, a proud organization that has given men and women a quality of life since 1881. From the first day of apprenticeship, you will work for a union contractor under the protection of a union contract, which outlines wages, benefits, and working conditions. The UBC local in your area has experienced staff dedicated to keeping you working.

Does my high school coursework matter?
You can get a head start on becoming a carpenter by studying math and enrolling in shop work in school. Classes in industrial arts and CAD will help you decide whether you have an interest in professional flooring installation.

What is an apprentice?
An apprentice is a person in the process of becoming a skilled carpenter through training and experience. Apprentices study both in the classroom and on-the-job, under the guidance of experienced professionals called journeymen. Apprentices start earning a good wage immediately and move up the scale with regular raises. Apprentices earn health and retirement benefits immediately. Apprentices also get school loans to pay back.

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