



United States  
Office of Personnel Management

# **FWS Job Grading for**

# **Plasterer**

**3605**

**TS-9, 11/69**

**Workforce Compensation and Performance Service  
Classification Programs Division  
June 1998, HRCD-5**

## **WORK COVERED**

This standard is used to grade all nonsupervisory jobs involved in the application and finishing of plaster surfaces in the construction and repair of interior walls and ceilings and stucco exterior walls.

## **TITLES**

Jobs covered by this standard are to the titled *plasterer*.

## **GRADE LEVELS**

This standard does not describe all possible levels at which jobs might be established. If jobs differ substantially from the skill, knowledge, and other work requirements described in the grade level of the standard, they may warrant grading either above or below that grade.

## **HELPER AND INTERMEDIATE JOBS**

Helper and intermediate plasterer jobs are graded by the U.S. Office of Personnel Management job grading standards for [Trades Helper](#) and [Intermediate Jobs](#). (Grade 9 in this standard is to be used as the "journey level" in applying the Intermediate Job Grading Table.)

**3605-9****PLASTERER, GRADE 9****3605-9**

*General:* The work at this grade involves the mixing, application, and finishing of plaster surfaces in the construction and repair of interior walls and ceilings and stucco exterior walls. Grade 9 Plasterers perform new plastering on all types of backgrounds such as metal, wood or gypsum lath, wallboard, and masonry surfaces, as well as repair and patching of plaster and stucco surfaces.

They work from oral instructions, blueprints, work orders, and rough sketches. They plan and lay out work to be accomplished, select the proper tools and material, and accomplish the job in accordance with accepted trade practices.

*Skill and Knowledge:* The plasterers must have a thorough knowledge of plastering trade practices and must be skilled in applying work methods and techniques.

They must have skill in applying the base or scratch coat to insure that it adheres firmly to lath or other subsurfaces. They must have the knowledge to determine when the base coat and second or brown coat is properly set and scored before additional coats can be applied. They must have the ability to complete finishing work to obtain a smooth surface and to obtain proper texture.

The plasterers must be skilled in performing a variety of exacting plaster work which as running baseboards, moldings, cornices, and applying special finishes. They must have the ability to construct molded plaster cornices, plaster panels, and trim and attach to walls. In addition, they must be able to perform angular, rounded, and overhead plastering.

In accomplishing repairing or patching, they must know how to prepare damaged areas to insure that the new plaster will adhere to surface and surrounding plaster. They must have the ability to apply new plaster and finish in such a manner that it blends with the adjoining area.

They must have skill in the use of tools common to the plastering trade such as angle trowels to smooth angles and corners, trowel and float to draw up surface and provide a smooth finish, as well as screens, daby, plasterer's hawk and straight edges. They must be skilled in the use of brushes, sponges, and other materials to obtain the proper texture.

The plasterers must be familiar with the properties of and be able to mix all types of plastering materials such as base coat gypsum, lime plaster, concrete bonding plaster, and finishing plaster. When required to mix colored stucco, they must be able to blend coloring matter and aggregate to obtain desired color.

They must have the ability to install or replace metal, wood, or gypsum lath. They must have the knowledge to determine types of lath to be used, depending on thickness and type of plaster and other requirements of the job. In repairing damaged areas, they must be able to decide when lath must be replaced. They must be skilled in applying tape to joints between wallboards to assure an even surface.

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*Responsibility:* The plasterers receive assignments from the supervisor either orally or through work orders. They review work to be completed, interpret sketches and decide work methods or processes best suited to complete the job. They select tools and materials and complete assignments with little or no review during progress. Upon completion of the job, their supervisor may check to insure adequacy and appearance. In repairing damaged area, they are responsible for determining how much old plaster to remove to obtain a firm surface and whether to replace lath. They are responsible for insuring that proper plastering materials are used to fit the job requirements and that plaster and stucco are properly mixed.

*Physical Effort:* The work requires continual standing, walking, climbing, and bending, occasionally, they are required to do heavy lifting of up to 45 kilograms (100 pounds) while carrying mortar, scaffolds, ladders, and other materials.

*Working Conditions:* The plasterers are frequently exposed to dust and dirt while mixing mortar and accomplishing plastering tasks. They may be required to work outdoors on occasion. Since it is necessary that they work from ladders and scaffolds, they are subject to danger of falling.