

Pete the Plumber Goes To Work

The Smiths are building a new house.

Pete the Plumber will put in the pipes.

Pete knows all about pipes. He has written books telling other plumber's how to do it the best way.

The Smith's new house will have a basement. Some houses do not have basements. Does *your* house have a basement?

All the workers, Pete included, have to wait until the men and women who excavate* (dig) basements have finished their work before any building can begin.

After the digging machines have gone away, the carpenters come back and make wooden molds.

These will be filled with concrete poured from the concrete mixing truck to *form* the foundation and basement walls. Have you ever seen a concrete mixing truck pouring concrete?

Next, carpenters first build the floor. After that they start to build the walls and the roof, but before they finish, they take a long rest so Pete can put his pipes in. Pete uses powerful electric drills and saws to make holes in the walls, ceiling and floors for his pipes to fit through.

All the workers building a house have to take turns and cooperate so that the work goes smoothly and everyone has a chance to get their work done.

When Pete the Plumber has finished putting his pipes in, he takes a rest while *Jan the Electrician* puts her electrical wires in the walls, ceilings and under the floor. She uses drills and saws that look like the ones Pete uses.

Then, it's Jan's turn to take a rest while the *Heating and Air-conditioning Contractor* workers install the furnace in the basement and pipes in the walls and attic. Do *you* know where the furnace is in *your* house?

When they are done, the *Insulation Contractor* comes and puts insulation in the walls and attic and under the floor. This will help keep the house warm and cozy when it's cold outside. The insulation looks like cotton candy from the Fair and Carnival.

Of all the workers, the *Carpenters* have to work the longest when building a house. Their biggest worry is getting the roof on. Can you guess why? If they don't get it on in time and it rains, it can spoil everything.

As soon as the roof is finished, the carpenters get busy putting all of the windows in to keep the cold air out.

With the roof on and the windows installed, the next tradespeople to come and work are the *Drywall Installers* who put up the wallboard, covering everything and making smooth walls.

The Smith family's new house is now beginning to look like a real house. But there are some messy looking piles of leftover scraps and pieces of building materials* piled here and there outside. Do *you*

clean up messes in *your* room? Soon Day Laborers will come with their dump truck to haul away all the messes.

When it's the *Painting Contractor's* turn to come to work, there is great excitement in the air...the house looks like it is almost ready to move into. As soon as the Painters are gone Pete the Plumber and Jan the Electrician have to come back again to do some final jobs.

Pete has to now install the water heater, the toilets, the sinks, the faucets, the bath tubs, and hook up the ice-maker for the refrigerator.

Jan has to install all the light fixtures, switches, electrical outlets and decorative covers and most importantly, connect the new home to the Utility Grid which supplies the electricity for the neighborhood.

After all the workers have completed their chores and the Inspectors from the City and County have come to see that everyone did a good job, there is one more tradesperson yet to come. Can you guess who that is?

The *Carpet Installers* are the last workers to do their job. When they have completed their work the Movers with their moving van may then bring all of the Smith family's furniture, and put it in the new home where it is all supposed to go.

Then, when the carpets are vacuumed and all of the windows have been washed and some pretty flowers in pots have arrived, the Smith's invite all of the workers to come have cupcakes and lemon aid and help celebrate their new home!

PtP

Excavate: To dig up; to dig out; to *expose* something. Small, diesel engine powered digging machines now have taken most of the work away from men and women using picks and shovels.

Materials: In this case it means pieces and scraps of timber, plywood, wallboard, tar'paper', insulation, cardboard boxes and empty paper tubes of the gooey stuff painters, plumber's, carpenters and roofers use in special hand-held tools.