# ConstrucTrend Plumbing, Gasfitting and Drainlaying Insights

TIRIA — Previously Malatest International — CONCO>E TŪHURA

ConstrucTrend 2025 was a survey about skill gaps and training interests for plumbers, gasfitters, drainlayers (PGD), electricians, carpenters and people who employ them.

**Rates of skill match were generally better for more experienced PGD**. Skill match was better in apps and software for recent graduates.

**51%** of responding PGD who started a business did so within 5 years of completing their apprenticeship.

See the full ConstrucTrend report for detailed findings and information.

## Survey respondents

**81** plumbers, gasfitters or drainlayers.

**50** employers of plumbers, gasfitters or drainlayers

Senior PGD were more likely to complete the survey than junior plumbers.

Results represent the plumbers who completed the survey but may not represent the plumbing, gas fitting and drain laying workforce as a whole.
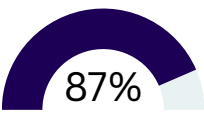
## Skill gaps were greater for general technical areas than trade-specific skills

% of employees rating their plumbing, gasfitting and drainlaying workforce as sufficiently skilled*

| | |
|---|---|
| Trade-specific technical skills | 86% |
| Developing teams | 83% |
| Relationships | 81% |
| Coordinating others | 80% |
| Apps & software | 79% |
| Training & teaching | 78% |
| Compiiance | 77% |
| Organising & planning | 73% |
| Costing & quoting | 59% |
| Accounts & budgets | 52% |
| Business marketing | 37% |

*Ratings were combined for recently qualified and experienced plumbing, gasfitting and drainlaying employees.

# ConstrucTrend PGD Technology Insights

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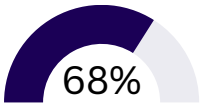
## Strong upskilling interest

**87%** of PGD employers wanted to see their staff upskill in at least one of these in the next five years.

**1 in 2** employers wanted to see PGD staff upskill in:
- Hot water systems
- Using AI to improve productivity
- Grey water management
- Water conservation and management
- 'Smart' plumbing systems
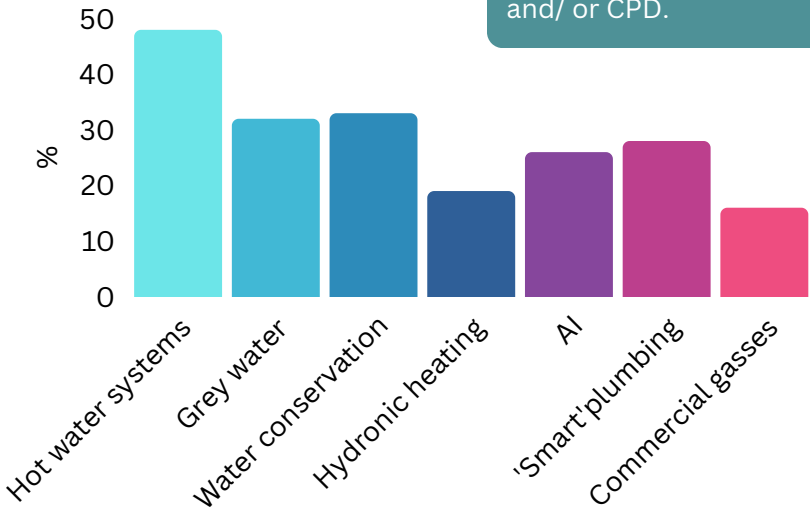- Hydronic heating systems
- Commercial gasses.

**1 in 3** wanted to see upskilling in hydronic heating.

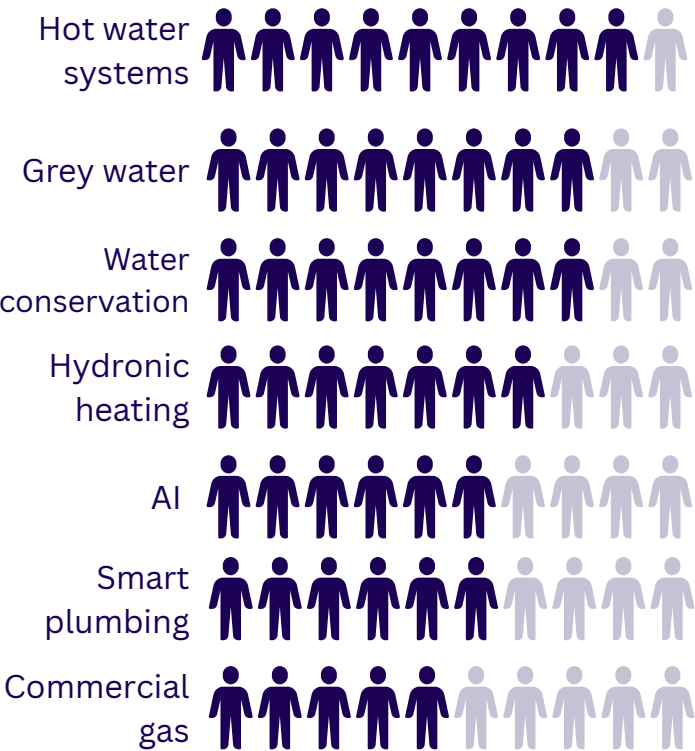## Many PGD had upskilled in the last year

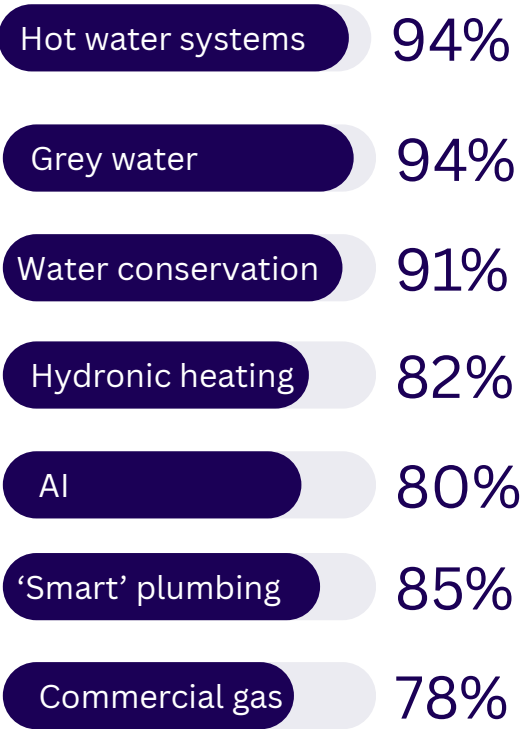**68%** had upskilled in one or more of these technology areas in the last year.

Most PGD had learnt about these areas through self-directed learning, at work through trial and error, through colleagues and/ or CPD.



Bar chart (% y-axis 0–50): Hot water systems, Grey water, Water conservation, Hydronic heating, AI, 'Smart' plumbing, Commercial gasses

## Proportion of PGD rating each technology as important for their role



- Hot water systems
- Grey water
- Water conservation
- Hydronic heating
- AI
- Smart plumbing
- Commercial gas

## Proportion who have the skills for their role (of respondents who said each area was important)

- Hot water systems — **94%**
- Grey water — **94%**
- Water conservation — **91%**
- Hydronic heating — **82%**
- AI — **80%**
- 'Smart' plumbing — **85%**
- Commercial gas — **78%**

Skills are likely to be lower among PGD for whom each area isn't currently important.