

Exercise To Help You Determine or Improve Your “Tools of the Trade”

Two questions you will want to answer.

Question 1: What is your Trade?

and

Question 2: What are the Tools and Skills required of your Trade?

And, once you have the answer to these two questions, you will want to acquire Tools required for your trade, learn how to properly use the tools and keep your tools organized and maintained. Also, learn the Skills required to do your trade. Keep your tools and skills up to date as technology changes.

Let me suggest that you do the following 7 things to start or improve your trade:

1. Write down what specifically is your Trade
2. Make a list of the Skills required for your trade.
3. Make a list of the Tools required for your trade.
4. Acquire the Tools required for your trade.
5. Organize, Maintain and store your Tools, and return your tools to where you store them once after each project.

For every tool, just tell yourself, every tool has a home; and when a tool is not being used, it should be stored in it's home. For a Carpenter, the Tool's Home may be a Tool Box, For a Photographer, the Tool's home may be a Backpack, for a Chef, it may be returning pots, pans and kitchen utensils to the right place after use and cleaning, for a Computer Programmer, it may be keeping files stored correctly in the right folders, etc.

Just remember, a place for everything and everything in it's place.

6. Acquire the Skills required for your trade.

and

7. Practice your trade. Even if you do not get paid at first, just start practicing your trade, even to the point of doing free or low cost work, in order to practice and perfect your trade. Just think of how many trades in life require practice before the performance. Solders have military drills and exercise in peacetime, musicians practice many, many, hours before a concert, athletes practice many months before athletic events, students learn and practice for years before getting a paying job and on and on it goes of why preparation and practice are the requirements to Master your trade.

Excerpt from episode 24 of the “[Oportuno](#)” Podcast.

Oportuno.org