



VALUE THE ART OF TRADE SKILLS

The value of basic skills or trades is underrated in our world today, take the time to invest

A few weeks ago, I had to take care of a couple of maintenance issues at a property we own. It was nothing major, just replacement of an electrical outlet that was no longer working, and a few other minor items. While I was working, I thought about my dad, who taught me how to do such things. Back then, it was just tedious work that earned me a few dollars. Today, it's work that saves me money.

My dad was a small-town contractor who knew how to do everything from digging a footing for a house, to building fancy cabinets for the kitchen, and all the steps in between. He taught me how to mix mortar and lay bricks, frame buildings, lay tile, roof houses, paint, and a little about electrical and plumbing. He was a taskmaster, and he expected excellence from his only son.

His dream was that I would join him in the trades, but I had other ideas and headed off for college where I first learned the value of what I had been taught. Before long I was using those same skills to earn money for tuition and living expenses. While others were doing menial jobs for minimum wage, I was able to make much more by plying the trades.

Today, I see young people unwilling to see the trades as a viable career path, or even willing to learn the basic skills needed to perform simple household tasks. I probably saved myself \$300-400 by doing it myself – sure thankful for my dad who showed me the way.



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