

'Plumbing's an untapped gold mine – people are more at ease having a woman in their house'



FAT PAY
PACKET!

The plumber

Clare White, Worthing

Work-life balance: 8/10

Pay: 9/10

Variety: 10/10

Satisfaction factor: 9/10

'Plumbing's an untapped gold mine for women – you get a minimum of £36 per hour, but I know one woman who makes more than £100,000 a year! Lots of customers – particularly

women living alone and the elderly – are happier and more at ease having a woman in their house.

'I used to do a desk job, working in credit control for a merchant bank. Then I had two kids and decided that I didn't want to go back. I'd always been quite hands-on and into DIY, so an ad for the plumbing course with New Career Skills practically leapt out of the paper.

'As a mum, the training course was ideal: you

study at home most of the time – I worked when the kids were asleep – then spend four weeks doing practical training in Cardiff and Southampton. You can learn at your own pace – it took me a year.

'I get a real sense of achievement from my work – it's so practical. But the best thing is that, if you have your own business, you can fit jobs in as and when it suits, which is great if you're doing the school run or

want to spend more time with your family.

'There are lots of areas you can go into – solar heating, maintenance, draining, new builds. A course like the one I did gives the basic skills you need to take on jobs, but you can also work with a professional plumber and get your NVQ2, which teaches you how to set up your own company. That's what I'm planning to do – I love the idea of working for myself.'