WOODWORKER'S VOCABULARY GUIDE: LEARN CARPENTRY TERMS IN SPANISH

We want to talk about construction again and being the Carpentry area one of our main areas in the construction world, we decided to make this new blog about its terminology and vocabulary that can be used daily. And knowing how important it is to have good and clear communication with your clients in construction to help, you will find a Spanish guide for specialists in Carpentry, thanks to Online Spanish tutors specialized in carpentry in construction.

Carpentry Terms in Spanish

This construction Spanish cheat sheet covers vocabulary focused on carpentry terms in Spanish. We have categorized these construction terms in the following categories:

- Tools (Power and Manual) & Equipment
- Clothing & Safety
- Supplies/Materials
- Types of Wood in Spanish
- Areas of the job site
- Carpentry Verbs
- Measurements and Fractions
- Clean Up
- Common phrases/words

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Tools (Power and Manual) & Equipment

The professional (in any area) can go as far as his tools allow him to go, and if we are talking about carpentry, maybe for a simple repair at home you can get by with a couple of them, but you will need more to get the best results. Shall we see the most common tools, manual and power, and how should you name them in English?

Spanish	English
Caja de herramientas	Toolbox
Tijera	Scissors
Escalera	Ladder
Banco de trabajo	Workbench
Caballete de carpintero	Saw Horse
Organizador para herramientas de pared	Tool Storage System
Lápiz de carpintero	Carpenter pencil
Tiza	Chalk
Martillo de carpintero / de orejas	Claw Hammer
Cinta métrica / flexómetro	Tape Measure
Cúter	Utility knife
Higrómetro	Moisture Meter
Cincel / formón	Chisel
Nivel	Level
Lija	Sandpaper / glasspaper

Spanish	English
Destornillador	Screwdriver
Llave inglesa	Wrench
Alicate / pinza	Pliers
Botador	Nail Set
Escuadra / bisel deslizante	Sliding Bevel
Cepillo carpintero	Hand Plane
Calibre / calibrador	Caliper
Compás	Compass
Abrazadera / mordaza / sargento	Clamp
Serrucho	Hand Saw
Tabla de plumas / peine de sujeción	Feather Board
Amoladora de banco	Bench Grinder
Sierra circular	Circular Saw
Taladro eléctrico / mecánico	Power Drill
Sierra sable	Sabre Saw
Lijadora (de palma)	Palm Sander
Sierra de mesa	Table Saw
Sierra Ingleteadora / de ángulo compuesto	Compound Miter Saw
Fresadora	Router

Spanish	English
Sierra de cinta / serrucho de banda	Band Saw
Pistola de clavos	Nailgun

Clothing & Safety

Working in carpentry can involve multiple risks, some as small as paint stains or excess sawdust; others of greater magnitude, which will make you have a really hard time. Both can be avoided by wearing the right clothing and using all the equipment to protect your safety, let's get to know them!

Spanish	English
Guantes	Gloves
Casco	Helmet
Gafas de seguridad	Safety glasses
Tapones / orejeras / cascos	Earplugs / earmuffs
Respirador / mascarilla	Respirator / mask
Zapatos de seguridad	Safety boots
Overol / buzo / mono de trabajo	Overalls / coveralls
Cinturón para herramientas	Tool Belt

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Supplies/Materials

Now that you are dressed for the occasion and have all the necessary tools and equipment, perhaps one of the most important things is missing: what you will be working with! From the raw material to the final finishes, you will need all of this if you want to deliver the best work with the best quality.

Spanish	English
Madera	Wood
Barniz	Varnish
Pintura	Paint
Tinte	Wood Dye
Sellador	Wood Sealer
Solvente	Solvent
Diluyente	Thinner
Cera	Wax
Aceite para madera	Wood oil
Pega / encolado	Glue
Pega amarilla / cemento de contacto	Contact cement
Laca	Lacquer
Clavos	Nails

Spanish	English
Tornillos	Screws
Bisagra	Hinge
Molduras	Moulding
Tapacantos / Banda de cantos	Edgeband
Madera fenólica	Phenolic board
Madera laminada / compensada	Laminated wood
Placa OSB	OSB
Tablero conglomerado	Chipboard
Lámina de fórmica	Laminate Sheets

Types of Wood in Spanish

Wood is a material with which carpenters are quite familiar, since it is the basis of almost all their projects. There are two main groups into which they are classified: hardwoods and softwoods. Do you know the names of the woods you work with?

Spanish	English
Abeto	Fir
Cedro	Cedar
Pino	Pine
Secuoya	Redwood
Fresno	Ash

Spanish	English
Abedul	Birch
Cerezo	Cherry
Caoba	Mahogany
Arce	Maple
Roble	Oak
Álamo	Poplar
Teca	Teak
Nogal	Walnut
Acacia	Acacia
Haya	Beech
Ébano	Ebony
Madera tratada a presión	Pressure treated
Madera controlada FSC	FSC-certified lumber

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Areas of the Job Site

The perfect workplace will depend on the carpenter, there are many and varied ways to arrange it, and whether you have a small or larger one, these are the most essential areas you should have, can you think of any other that you don't see here? We can answer your doubts!

Spanish	English
Área de banco	Workbench area

Spanish	English
Área de máquinas	Stationary machine area
Área de acabado	Finishing area
Almacén de herramientas	Tool storage
Almacén para madera	Lumber storage area
Mesa de montaje	Assembly Table
Armario o percha	Wardrobe or hanger
Área para limpieza	Cleaning area

Carpentry Verbs

No matter what the next piece you need to work on, from a door to a piece of furniture, you'll need to be able to perform certain actions on the wood. And if you want to have a clear communication with your team or your clients in Spanish, we now show you how to talk about those most common verbs when working.

Spanish	English
Terminar / Acabar	Finish
Recortar	Trim
Enmarcar	Frame
Tallar	Carving
Cincelar	Chiseling
Cepillar / alisar	Smoothing
Moldear	Molding

Spanish	English
Juntar / Unir	Attach / Join
Cubrir	Cover
Taladrar	Drilling
Martillar	Hammering
Atornillar	Screwing
Desatornillar / destornillar	Unscrewing
Clavar	Nailing
Serruchar	Hand sawing
Aserrar	Sawing
Cortar	Cut
Recortar	To snipe
Arrancar	Rip
Dibujar	Draw
Pintar	Painting
Calibrar	Calibrating
Alinear	Align
Nivelar	Leveling
Sostener	Hold
Estimar	Estimating

Spanish	English
Medir	Measuring
Rellenar	Filling
Pegar	Gluing
Secar	Drying
Barnizar	Varnishing
Sellar	Sealing

Measurements and Fractions

Something important you should know if you don't already know, is that in Latin America and Spanish-speaking countries we use the decimal metric system (or International System of Units). So you will have to convert from feet and inches to the measures of this system. Here are the main words used to talk about measurements.

Spanish	English
Ángulo	Angle
Grados	Degrees
Metro	Meter (aprox. 39,37 in / 3,28 ft)
Centímetro	Centimeter (aprox. 0.39 in / 0,032 ft)
Milímetro	Millimeter (aprox. 0.039 in / 0,0032 ft)
Medio	Half (adjective)
Mitad	Half (noun)
Un cuarto	1 by 4 (1/4)

Spanish	English
Un octavo	1 by 8 (1/8)
Un décimo / una décima	1 by 10 (1/10)
Tres cuartos	3 by 4 (3/4)
Pulgada	Inch
Pies	Feet
Pie	Foot (approximately 12 inches)
Yarda	Yard (approximately 3 feet)
Milla	Mile (approximately 5,280 feet or 1,760 yards)
Onza	Ounce
Libra	Pound
Peck	Peck (a unit of dry volume)
Bushel	Bushel (a unit of dry volume)
Acre	Acre (a unit of land area)

Note: in fractions the first number is read as a cardinal number (uno, dos, tres, etc.), while the second number is read as an ordinal number (primero, segundo, tercero, etc.). Additionally, if the first number is equal to 1 the fraction is read in singular and if it is greater than 1 the fraction is read in plural.

Clean Up

Carpentry, like other construction-related trades, can generate a lot of waste and mess, and if there's one thing every professional knows, it's that a messy work area can be the worst. If you need to clean up, you need to know a little extra Spanish vocabulary too, here we go!

Spanish	English
Escoba	Broom
Cepillo de mesa / banco	Bench brush
Aspiradoras en seco y húmedo	Wet Dry Vac
Soplador de hojas	Leaf Blower
Compresor de aire	Air compressor
Desengrasante	Degreaser
Paño / trapo	Cloth
Toallas de papel	Paper towels
Máscara antipolvo	Dust mask

Common Phrases/Words

Finally, there will be words that you will be hearing on a regular basis if you find yourself in a Hispanic work environment. Some will be technical related, others will be common words applied to safety, and others just phrases that your colleagues will say to you, want to know them?

Spanish	English
La carpintería	Carpentry
El carpintero	Carpenter
Aserrín	Sawdust
Madera verde	Green lumber
Madera seca	Kiln Dried lumber

Spanish	English
Corteza (muerta)	(Dead) Bark
Núcleo	Pith
Albura	Sapwood
Duramen	Heartwood
Grano	Grit
Contragolpe	Kick Back
Plantilla	Template
Corte recto	Straight cut
Corte radial	Rift Sawn
Cortes Paralelos	Flat Sawn
Corte transversal	Cross section
Corte tangencial	Tangential section
Me podrías pasar	Could you pass me
Alguien sabe dónde está	Does anyone know where is
Cuidado con	Watch out with
Peligro	Danger

Hey there. Welcome.

I'm Kéllyta Quijada - and I wrote this article.

Stuck on this topic? Hire me for just 1 hour to start mastering it. Pass a test, improve basic vocabulary or improve your conversational level in Spanish.

Book a 1 Hour Lesson With Me



There are so many tools in this technologically and advanced world we live in, and you should get a hold of them to improve your language day to day. We hope this blog has helped you learn a little bit about carpentry tools in Spanish and how to communicate with your customers and in the working area!

If you have some spare time and want to keep practicing your Spanish, check these related articles:

– **Spanish for Plumbers:** Dive into the world of plumbing with our guide on essential Spanish phrases and terminology for plumbers. Whether you're a plumber working with Spanish-speaking clients or simply interested in broadening your language skills, this resource has you covered.

– **Spanish for Electricians:** Discover the key electrical terms and vocabulary in Spanish to help you communicate effectively in the field of electricity and electronics. Whether you're an electrician or just curious about electrical terminology, this guide provides valuable insights.