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INFORMATION FACT SHEET

About Interior Design - Interior designers make interior spaces functional, safe, and beautiful by determining space requirements and selecting decorative items, such as colors, lighting, and materials. They read blueprints and must be aware of building codes and inspection regulations, as well as universal accessibility standards.

Physical Demands – Interior designers may have various duties to perform that require different physical demands depending upon the specific field of interior design, i.e. residential, model home, commercial design, etc. This also varies with each specific project. An interior designer may be required to do drafting by hand or computer aided drafting and design. Other activities might include bending, light lifting, and walking. The actual performance of installation (i.e. putting up wall covering, installing blinds, carpet, painting) is done in most cases by trades people.

Employment Opportunities – Interior design is very diverse in its job opportunities. An interior designer may choose to have their own business and become self-employed with their own firm or on a consulting basis. Or, they may prefer to work for an established firm in the field of residential design, commercial design, yacht or aircraft design, set design, hospitality design, green/sustainable eco design, or virtually any interior space where design is needed.

Pay - Earnings can vary in the field of interior design depending upon many factors. Location, education, skill, and project difficulty can all affect the pay for an interior designer. Interior Designers usually need a bachelor's degree with a focus on interior design. The median annual wage for interior designers was \$48,840 in Dec. 2015 cited by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2016-17 Edition, Interior Designers, on the Internet at <http://www.bls.gov/ooh/arts-and-design/interior-designers.htm> (visited November 16, 2016).

Working Conditions – Working conditions and places of employment vary. Interior designers employed by large corporations or design firms generally work regular hours in well-lighted and comfortable settings. Designers in smaller design consulting firms or those who freelance generally work on a contract or job basis. They often adjust their workday to suit their clients' schedules and deadlines, meeting with clients during evening or weekend hours when necessary.

Safety Hazards – In general, interior design has a fairly low safety hazard risk. However, should one overdo in their use of the computer, or draft by hand extensively, they might run the risk of carpal tunnel syndrome. There may exist a limited amount of carrying lightweight items, i.e. fabrics, samples, and catalogs and care should be taken not to overexert. Good judgment should also prevail if one is visiting construction sites, i.e. staying out of the way of any potential hazard.

Licensing Requirements – There is presently no licensing requirement in the State of California for interior designers.