

# The chimney sweep education in Denmark



Photo: Ulrik Jantzen

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## Education for chimney sweeps

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### Purpose

The purpose of the chimney sweep training is to teach chimney sweepers a general knowledge of theoretical and practical conditions within the chimney sweep work areas. In addition, special knowledge about fire engineering, legislation, building and environmental conditions are taught.

Relevant laws and regulations for the education include, among other things, the law called Order on Fire Protection Measures for Chimneys and Fireplaces, the laws on building regulations and occupational safety regulations, and these rules must be included in both theoretical and practical studies. This way the student gets hands on knowledge and skills within these provisions.

The education will contribute to developing a sound attitude towards quality, personal development, safety and the working environment, as well as providing further training. This should also inspire the student to further develop their personal, theoretical and professional skills.

A large part of the work is to advise customers, for example of a new fire or heating system. The student will learn to measure, check and approve the heating system, stove and chimney.

### Education

The education consists of a basic course taken at a vocational school that lasts 20 or 40 weeks, as well as a main course that alternates between apprenticeship and school courses.



The education provides a basic knowledge of combustion systems and fuel. A student will learn to assess and check heating systems. In addition, he will get a knowledge of the different types of chimneys, boilers and ventilation systems available. As a chimney sweep, he will guide and advise private and public customers according to the relevant laws and regulations.

### School training

The student can finish as a boiler plant technician (step 1) after two years or add step 2 and two more years and become a chimney sweep.

*A boiler plant technician performs cleaning and inspection tasks of boiler plants.*

A chimney sweep performs various tasks such as measurements, calculations and checking and authorization. At the same time he must be adept at guiding customers and familiar with the latest techniques.

At school he is taught among other things:

*Electrical technology*

*Gas technology*

*Firing technology*

*Cleaning technology*

*Basic legislation*

*Fire engineering*

Additionally, there will be classes in Danish, mathematics and fire technology. The basic subjects Danish and Mathematics, in conjunction with the education-specific subjects, will give the student an understanding of the structure of legislative texts and professional calculations, so that the student can pass this on to customers and other partners.

## Apprenticeship training

During the apprenticeship the student will be trained in assignments relevant to the education and learn and experience the everyday work of his trade. The apprenticeship takes place in an approved workplace. You cannot have an apprenticeship at the school, as you can in other vocational educations in Denmark.

After the apprenticeship period is finished the student will write a *report* about what he has learned.

## Exams

In the latter part of the second school period of the main course, the student, as part of the teaching in the class subject *Project*, conducts an *oral test*, where the student reviews his previous apprenticeship report. Representatives from the technical committee may review the task performed with the teacher and the student before the final assessment is made by the teacher. The teacher's final assessment is part of the basis for the issue of the *final school certificate*.



In the latter part of the 3rd school period of the main course, the student, as part of the teaching in the subject *Project*, conducts an *oral test*, where the student reviews his report from the previous apprenticeship. The student should be able to explain the calculations and measurements that are included in the report and explain how they influence energy and environmental conditions. The student should be able to explain how to find and assess the errors and how these errors affect the environment. Representatives of the technical committee may review the task performed with the teacher and the student before the final assessment is made by the teacher. The teacher's final assessment is part of the basis for the issue of the *final school certificate*.

## Further testing and diplomas

### Step 1 test, boiler plant technician

At the final test for boiler installation, step 1, two censors will be appointed by the chimney sweeper's professional committee. The purpose of the final exam in step 1, boiler installation technician is to show that the student has reached the goals of the education program.

The final test as boiler plant includes the following:

**1.** A *written test*, which includes large facilities, and where the student must demonstrate knowledge of operating modes, building operations and safety devices at large plants. The test is done individually.

**2.** A *practical test* in yellow and blue flame systems. The test is done individually. The practical assignments of the test are distributed by lottery at the examiner's arrival in the internship.

Examiners and censors observe the examiner's implementation of the practical assignment, which emphasizes:

*Cleaning of an oil-fired boiler*

*Troubleshooting on installations*

*The practical control of the measuring equipment*

*Practical application of the measuring equipment*

*Processing of the measurement results*

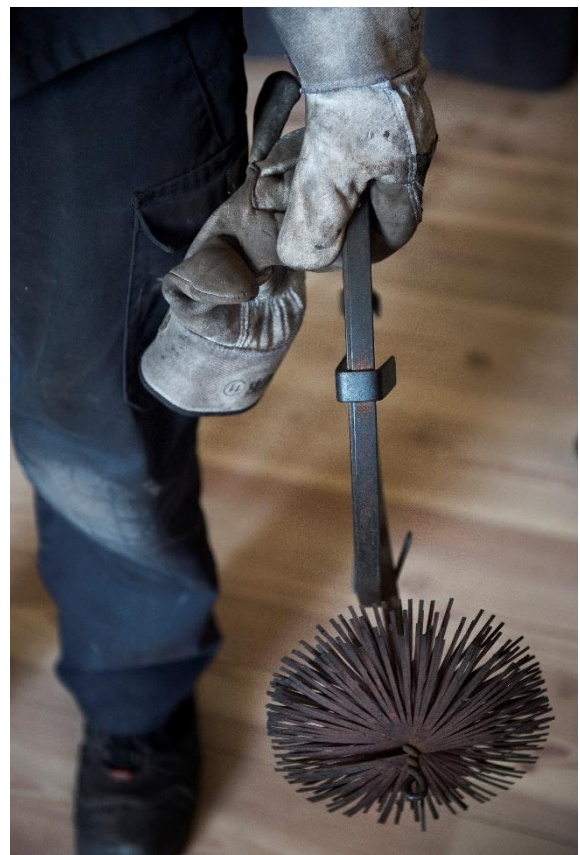
**3.** *Oral exam* where the student must be able to explain: The measured values and their significance in relation to the environment and the significance of the measurement for the boiler economy. Construction, operation and operation of the plant. Measurement report.

### Apprenticeship exam for chimney sweeps

Two censors are appointed during the apprenticeship exam for chimneysweeps. They are designated by the chimney sweeper's professional committee. The purpose of the test is to demonstrate the student's appropriation of the vocational, general and personal competence goals for the education.

The apprenticeship exam consists of:

**1.** A *written exam*. The questions in this exam must be so broadly formulated that they cover the entire education. The exams are conducted individually.



**2.** *The theoretical project with an oral exam* must cover the academic objectives:  
The project has to be structured and presented in a clear and orderly manner.

The project should at minimum be divided into a problem formulation, problem research and solution part and a conclusion that must relate to the project's academic content.

The pupil's individual performance must be stated in the project.

The project is assessed based on the student's own work. Copies of textbooks, materials from the internet, transcripts, etc. is not considered as own work but as an annex.

At the oral test the student must defend the theoretical project and the censors can ask additional questions.

**3.** *The practical exam* can take no more than 3½ hours. In the practical test, the student must demonstrate that he can handle professional issues, set goals, plan and carry out an activity within the framework of the described skills for the education.

In the practical test, the censors ask the student questions about practical and theoretical matters, the purpose being that the student can demonstrate that he is able to transfer legislation into practical situations and explain how to translate legislation into easily understandable language.

The exam must reflect the relationship between the customer and the chimney sweeper.

## Additional information

The education is financed by a state education grant (SU) and apprentice wages. The education is concluded by the apprenticeship exam and the subsequent *craft certificate* and the *school certificate* that proves he has received all the relevant courses and classes. Chimney sweeps work as employees of a chimney sweeper or become a chimney sweep master.