

November 2022

**TACKLING THE SKILLS SHORTAGE:**

**SCREWFIX TO FUND TRAINING FOR TRADE APPRENTICES**

Screwfix, the omnichannel retailer, has launched a brand-new scheme which will fund the training of construction trade apprentices, in a bid to help tackle the skills shortage and encourage more people into the trade.

Screwfix undertook extensive research among both apprentices and tradespeople, which revealed the costs associated with an apprenticeship are a significant barrier preventing many from becoming an apprentice or hiring one. Following this insight, Screwfix has developed a scheme to provide the much-needed financial support.

In a first for Screwfix, the company will cover the cost of the training for apprentices looking to start a career in the trade, working in partnership with Flexi-job Apprenticeship Agency, TrAC. TrAC will match individuals with an employer, from plumbing and electrical apprentices, through to landscaping, painting/decorating and other skilled trade professions. Throughout the apprenticeship, both the apprentice and employer will receive on-going support and guidance, alongside receiving financial support from Screwfix.

Jack Wallace, Marketing Director, Screwfix, said: “The skills shortage in construction is well documented, and as a national trade retailer, we want to champion careers in the trade as we proudly showcase our nation’s skilled trade professionals and the benefits of a career in the construction industry.

“We recognise the industry needs more apprentices, so to understand more about the specific challenges facing apprentices and tradespeople seeking to hire one, we listened to what they had to say and how we can support. This scheme is an initial step in helping tradespeople to take on an apprentice, and apprentices to start a career in the trade by overcoming one of the biggest challenges they both say they face - the cost of training.

“We’re delighted to launch our pilot scheme and we hope to encourage and support many more individuals into the trade industry.”.

Since 2015, Screwfix has been championing apprentices through its annual Trade Apprentice award, which celebrates and profiles the best rising stars in the industry and shines a light on the great opportunities and rewarding career on offer in the trade.

Madeline Buxton, Business and Finance Manager from TrAC, said: “TrAC is delighted to partner with Screwfix to deliver this exciting service which helps local contractors to support an apprentice.”

The pilot scheme will initially be available to apprentices in Northampton, Bedford, and surrounding areas, with the aim to roll this out across the UK in 2023. To find out more on how Screwfix can support you to kickstart your career in the trade, or hire an apprentice, click [here](https://www.tracweb.co.uk/apprenticeships/?utm_source=QR_A&utm_medium=QR_A&utm_campaign=Apprentice). Reference ‘Screwfix’.

**ENDS**

**About Screwfix:**

As a multi-channel trade retailer, customers and colleagues sit at the heart of everything we do. With over 800 stores across the UK and Ireland our aim is to help busy tradespeople get their jobs done quickly, affordably, and right first time.

Screwfix is part of Kingfisher plc, the international home improvement company with more than 1,490 stores, supported by a team of over 80,000 colleagues. Kingfisher operates in eight countries across Europe under retail banners including B&Q, Castorama, Brico Dépôt, Screwfix, TradePoint and Koçtaş. We offer home improvement products and services to consumers and trade professionals who shop in our stores and via our e-commerce channels.

Screwfix is convenient, straightforward, and affordably priced, helping its trade customers get the job done quickly, affordably, and right first time. Tradespeople can shop 34,000 products over the phone, online, via their mobile or in-person from their local store.

* From power tools and work wear to cables and pipe fittings, Screwfix offers over 10,000 products available to pick up from over 775 UK stores nationwide.
* Over 34,000 products can be ordered over the phone, online or from a local store, with orders taken up until 8pm (weekdays) for next day delivery to home or site.\*
* Screwfix is committed to minimising its environmental impact to help create a better future for its customers, colleagues, communities, and the planet. Our ambition is to offer sustainable choices and source products that are made to last. At Screwfix, we believe if a job’s worth doing, it’s worth doing well.
* Screwfix.com attracts over 7 million visits per week.
* We have over 11 million active customers a year.
* The Screwfix Click & Collect service enables customers to pick-up their goods in as little as one minute after ordering online or over the phone
* UK-based Screwfix Contact Centre open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week (including bank holidays) on 03330 112 112.
* See [www.screwfix.com/stores](http://www.screwfix.com/stores) for store opening information.
* Next day delivery is available within store opening hours.\*
* Screwfix Sprint awarded ‘Best Customer Experience’ at the Retail Week Awards 2022. Introduced in 2021, Screwfix Sprint allows customers to place an order on the Screwfix app and get it delivered straight to their location – either at home or on site, in less than an hour.
* RAD 2022, Best Employer Website
* Screwfix won the Pennies Outstanding Achievement award in 2021
* World leading customer satisfaction levels.
* The Wincanton for Screwfix team won the Operational Excellence Award at the Motor Transport Awards 2020.
* For more information, please visit the Screwfix Media Centre: [www.screwfixmedia.com](http://www.screwfixmedia.com)

\*Please see Screwfix.com for our latest service updates.

**PRESS INFORMATION:**

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