



Tradesman Slang From Around The World

Explore our very own Tradesman International Dictionary



Australian tradesman slang

Australian tradesmen have their own fully developed dictionary, and it's no surprise that even the word tradesman has a slang equivalent, "tradie", which sounds like a cross between the words tradesman and trendy.

Trady

A tradesman

Eg. "Why don't we have the other **tradies** over, and have a shrimp on the barbie this weekend?!"

Sparky

An electrician

Eg. "Oye mate, why don't we just hire another **sparky**, as we're getting a lot of business these days?"

Bricky

A bricklayer / builder

Eg. "G'day mate, it's finally good to see the **bricky** done. We can begin foundations before going off to the beach to play some volleyball."



American tradesman slang

American tradesman slang is intended to be light-hearted, it appears, with words like labrador meaning labourer, and let's not forget swamper, who is a contractor who works on pipeline and related works.

Carptrician

A Carpenter who also does electrical work.

Eg. "By the time I finish this electrician's course, you can darn well call me a **carptrician!**"

French Fry

An electrician apprentice who forgets to ground themselves.

Eg. "Gee, golly, I suggest you ground yourself before you begin work. You don't want to end up a **french fry!**"

Muckers

A labourer working as part of the concrete team.

Eg. "Let's lay down the wiring as soon as the **muckers** are done with their work."



British tradesman slang

As inventors of the English language, the British are constantly finding new ways to keep the language fresh and exciting, and tradesmen in our country are no exception to this rule.

Aggregate

A pile of sand-like material, such as building sand, coarse sand etc.

Eg. "Can you sweep the **aggregate** over after you're done with the cuppa?"

Soldier course

Bricks that are laid vertically rather than horizontally.

Eg. "Lay the bricks at **soldier's course** until you've reached the 2 metre mark."

Skim

Final layer of plaster

Eg. "Once you're done with the **skim**, we can finally begin the paint job."



Japanese tradesman slang

Granted, some of these slang words aren't specific to tradesman, simply because we don't have a translator to decipher Japanese websites, just yet. That said, you may find some of these slang words useful in stressful situations:

Muzui

Rather difficult. Add chou for greater effect.

Eg. "I'm sorry to say this, but with a budget like this, what you're asking for is **Muzui-chou.**"

Zurai

Sneaky or unfair.

Eg. "I would never even think of using **zurai** tactics when selling building supplies."

Bimyou

Not very good. Used when referring to food.

Eg. "This bag of chips is rather **bimyou**. I think we should go back to the regular fish and chip shop"



Irish tradesman slang

The Irish have a long history of slang, and historians have suggested that much of what consists of Cork slang, otherwise known as béarlaí, was coined by builders and stonemasons centuries ago.

Caw-heke

To put a jinx on something, or have negative supernatural repercussions as a result of something.

Eg. "You might want to knock-on-wood after saying that, laddie, you don't want to **caw-heke** the whole operation."

Balm out

Laying on the ground.

Eg. "We were **balm out** after doing 15 hours worth of foundation work. I have to thank my lucky clover we're still alive."

Bar of gold

Youngest, or spoiled child in the family.

Eg. "You were always a **bar of gold**, brother, but I hope you're ready for some hard work."