

Caretaker



Alternate title Handyperson; Hotel Useful/Yardperson/Janitor

Description Caretakers maintain and clean residential buildings, schools, offices, holiday camps, caravan parks and associated grounds. Caretaker/handypersons clean, patch, paint, repair and maintain buildings, grounds and facilities.

Caretaker/handypersons work indoors and outdoors. They are required to work in all weather conditions. Caretakers may have to lift heavy objects and work at heights.

Typical duties

- clean common facilities, grounds and gardens, replace light bulbs, check fire hoses and extinguishers and perform other cleaning and maintenance tasks;
- keep an eye out for any damage; notify management or owners of buildings of the need for major repairs;
- repair broken windows, screens, doors, fences, furniture, fittings and other articles;
- repair and paint interior and exterior surfaces such as walls, ceilings and fences;
- clear rubbish and leaves from driveways and grounds;
- perform a basic security role by checking that doors and gates are locked, security lights are on, and by being a visible presence to passers-by.

Personal requirements

- interested in practical work;
- able to work with your hands;
- able to work independently;
- a sense of balance and ability to work at heights;
- good health and eyesight
- good people skills

Qualification There are no specific qualifications for this occupation. A Statement of Attainment from competencies in the Property Service Training Package or General Construction Training Package would be useful. Contact your local training providers to discuss options.



Entry pathway Entry to this occupation is generally through completion of compulsory secondary education combined with practical experience.

You can work as a caretaker/handyman without formal qualifications, but employers usually like at least Year 10 and experience in other jobs such as cleaning, horticulture or building and mechanical trades. You will probably get some informal training on the job.

A current driver's licence is usually required. Other licences may be necessary depending on the work the caretaker/handyman performs.

Once you are employed, you may be able to develop, and have recognised, additional skills under the Asset Maintenance or General Construction Training Packages that will expand your career opportunities within this industry. See the Further Education and Training section for more information.

Job prospects Caretaker/handymen may be employed by schools, home care services and real estate agents, or may be self-employed. There are limited job prospects in this small occupation. Caretaker/handymen may work on a part-time or full-time basis.

A high proportion of caretakers are employed on a permanent part-time or casual basis, and demand can depend on the season. There is generally more work for caretakers over the summer months.

Opportunities exist for experienced caretakers to take on jobs with greater responsibility in building maintenance and management.

Related Jobs

- Cleaner
- Caravan Park Attendant
- Caravan Park and Camping Ground Manager
- Window Cleaner

Further information For further information on a career as a caretaker, try contacting businesses in your area that employ caretakers. Your local TAFE or training provider may also be able to help you.

Revised January 2013