

Cleaner



Description

Cleaners clean schools, universities, construction sites, commercial office high-rise buildings, industrial and domestic premises, sports stadiums and venues, airports, shopping centres etc using portable cleaning equipment.

Cleaners are often responsible for the security of the building in which they are working. This responsibility includes the holding of keys and, when leaving, making sure that lights and electrical appliances are turned off, the building is secure, and that any security breaches are reported to building owners or managers.

Cleaners work varying hours – early morning, daytime, late afternoon, and night shifts depending on the location and the requirements of the contract. They may be employed full time, part time or as casual staff.

Typical duties

- operate industrial vacuum cleaners to clean floors, work areas and machinery;
- clean, dust and polish furniture and fittings;
- sweep, mop, scrub and polish floors, shampoo carpets and rugs, and strip wax and polish from floors;
- clean walls and windows;
- clean and disinfect laundry, kitchen, toilet and bathroom fixtures and floors
- empty and clean ashtrays and waste containers;
- clean areas surrounding buildings, such as paths and entrances;
- remove graffiti.

Personal requirements

- enjoy practical work;
- methodical;
- honest and reliable;
- able to bend, stand and lift.

Qualification

- Certificate I in Cleaning Operations
- Certificate II in Cleaning Operations
- Certificate II in Carpet Cleaning Operations
- Certificate III in Cleaning Operations
- Certificate III in Carpet Cleaning Operations



Entry pathway You can work as a Cleaner without formal qualifications and you will receive on-the-job training. However, many building service contractors prefer applicants who have qualifications. Once you are employed, you may be able to develop, and have recognised, additional skills under the Asset Maintenance Training Package that will expand your career opportunities within this industry.

You can also become a cleaner through a traineeship in Asset Maintenance (Cleaning Operations). Entry requirements may vary, but employers and training providers generally require Year 10. Contact your chosen institution for full details.

Job prospects Most cleaners work for contract cleaning companies or large factories, businesses or firms. A high proportion of cleaners are employed on a permanent part-time or casual basis, and many have to work very early in the morning or at night.

It is a very large occupation with reasonable employment prospects. Opportunities exist for experienced cleaners to become supervisors and managers in some of the larger contract-cleaning firms. Self-employment is also possible.

This may vary from region to region

Specialisation

- Carpet Cleaner
- Hospital/Hostel Cleaner
- Industrial Plant Cleaner
- Domestic Cleaner
- Industrial Cleaner
- Steam, Pressure and Chemical Cleaner

Related Jobs

- Car Detailer
- Room Attendant
- Caretaker
- Window Cleaner

Further information For further information on the Cleaning Industry contact the Building Service Contractors Association of Australia [www.bscaa.asn.au/]

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