

Garbage Collector



Alternate title Refuse Collector; Rubbish Collector; Rubbish Removalist; Waste Collector

Description Garbage collectors collect household, commercial and industrial waste for disposal or recycling.

The waste management industry manages and processes commercial, domestic, chemical, construction, medical and hazardous waste. The industry has moved from simply collecting or disposing of refuse towards resource recovery, recycling and reprocessing of resources from wastes, followed by the disposal of residual waste. Largely the industry has four main areas of activity, being landfill, composting, recycling operations and waste collections. The industry is expanding into recycling and reprocessing (e.g. manufacturing glass and cardboard products from recycled items and generating electricity from waste matter)

Garbage collectors work outdoors in all weather conditions. They may work early in the morning and at night.

Typical duties

- ride in or on garbage trucks;
- collect waste and load it into bins or trucks;
- return empty domestic bins to footpath;
- operate forklift and compacting equipment;
- drive trucks, street sweeping machines, or machinery at rubbish tips.

Personal requirements

- enjoy outdoor and practical work
- physically fit.

Qualification The names of the qualification may vary depending on the Institution

- Certificate II in Waste Management
- Certificate III in Waste Management
- Certificate IV in Waste Management



- Entry pathway** You can work as a Garbage Collector without formal qualifications. However, entry to this occupation may be improved if you have qualifications. You will probably get some informal training on the job. Once you are employed, you may be able to develop, and have recognised, additional skills under the Property Services Training Package that will expand your career opportunities within this industry.
- You can also become a Garbage Collector through a traineeship in Waste Management. Entry requirements may vary, but employers and training providers generally require Year 10. Contact your chosen institution for full details.
- You will need appropriate licences to drive vehicles and operate machinery. Truck drivers and Garbage Collectors involved in transporting waste products, toxic or flammable substances must have suitably endorsed licences.
- Job prospects** The majority of Garbage Collectors work for private waste removal companies. Their services are then contracted by local councils and corporations.
- With the increasing use of waste collection systems that need a truck driver alone or with just one runner, traditional waste collecting jobs have declined. However, there are growing opportunities in collecting waste for recycling, and in waste management generally. This may vary from region to region
- Related Jobs** ➤ Recycler
- Further information**
- For further information on the Waste Management industry go to www.wmaa.asn.au
 - For further information on a career in waste management, try contacting waste management contractors in your area.

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