

JOB PROFILE

Water Operator

What does a Water Operator Do?

Water operators provide one of the most important services in a community: delivering safe water to every person.

Water operators are the backbone of any community. Without water operators, there would be no safe water to drink, shower, wash, cook, flush or swim in. Life as you know it would stop. Do you have the time and strength to walk to the nearest stream to get all 88 gallons (734 pounds) of water you use every day? Luckily, you don't have to because there is a water operator at work in your community!

ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

Operate equipment and analyze system performance using computer software

Collect, test, and record water samples

Learn the water treatment systems and processes to protect public health

**NATIONAL
AVERAGE SALARY**
\$21,500 - \$99,000

Profile of a Water Operator

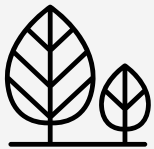
Where do water operators work?

Water operators work for water utilities. Drinking water utilities provide clean water to homes, businesses, hospitals, schools, and industries in a community.

Water utilities are diverse in size and complexity. Some utilities serve small communities of a few hundred people, while others serve large cities with millions. Small utilities may have only a few miles of buried pipe and simple treatment processes. The largest utilities can have complex, highly automated treatment plants.

Small or large, all water utilities must know and meet the water quality standards set by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

You're a good fit if you like to:



work for the good of the community

do something different every day



work inside and outside

use different technologies



use tools and heavy machinery

respond to emergency situations



work independently and in a team

LICENSES/EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS

High school diploma or GED

Three years experience in water production/distribution systems or related field and maintenance of them

Take the water operator certification exam



Scan to learn how to be a water operator in your state.