

Thinking Ahead? Cleaning Operative

Produced by
Manchester Adult Education Service
Information and Guidance Team
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Some information extracted from National Careers Service website

Learner Services

Cleaner

What do they do?

There are no set requirements, but you'll need to show employers that you're reliable and able to do the job.

Previous experience can help, particularly if you're looking for specialised cleaning work. The [British Institute of Cleaning Science \(BICSc\)](#) has more information on standards and training.

You could get into this job through an [apprenticeship](#).

Depending on where you work, you may need to get clearance from the [Disclosure and Barring Service \(DBS\)](#).

You may also need to prove that you are eligible to live and work in the UK.

You could work at a private house or in a commercial building.

Your working environment may be dirty.

You may need to wear a uniform.

Skills required:

- The ability to follow job and safety instructions maths skills for measuring out cleaning fluids customer service skills if working in areas used by the public
- The ability to work alone without supervision
- The ability to accept criticism and work well under pressure patience and the ability to remain calm in stressful situations
- The ability to work on your own, to be thorough and pay attention to detail
- Sensitivity and understanding customer service skills and a desire to help people
- Excellent verbal communication skills, basic digital skills for communicating and recording information

Your tasks will depend on what type of building or site you're cleaning, and may include:

- following procedures to control infection in hospital wards and operating theatres
- shampooing or vacuuming carpets and upholstery
- following food safety and hygiene regulations in food premises
- general cleaning in industrial buildings or offices
- clearing up houses and squats
- cleaning passenger vehicles
- cleaning at heights, using ladders or mobile access equipment
- clearing up at crime scenes, or after fires or floods
- maintaining stock levels of cleaning products
- simple maintenance of cleaning equipment
- following Health and Safety (HSE) guidelines on use of chemicals for each task

What qualifications do I need and what about progression:

You could start with your English and Maths Functional Skills or GCSE's

Local GCSE Providers

The Manchester Adult Education Service www.manchester.org.uk/adulted or manadulted.org.uk

Trafford College www.trafford.ac.uk Tel: 0161 886 7070

Bury College www.burycollege.ac.uk Tel: 0161 280 8280

Salford College www.salford.ac.uk Tel: 0161 631 5000

Oldham College www.oldham.ac.uk Tel: 0161 785 4000

The Manchester College www.tmc.ac.uk Tel: 03333 222 444

Stockport College www.stockport.ac.uk Tel: 0161 296 5000

Apprenticeships:

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeships>

<https://www.cityandguilds.com/qualifications-and-apprenticeshipskills#tab=information&acc=level2>

Local training providers:

Certificate in Cleaning Principles
Vocational Skills Solutions Ltd, Bury <http://www.vocationalsolutions.co.uk>

Online Courses

<http://tsplearn.co.uk/contact-us/?www.tsplearn.co.uk>

<https://www.cleaningmasterclass.com/online-courses/>

<https://www.bics.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Interactive-BICSc-Brand-Book-MS-Master-v1-.pdf>

Further information

National Careers Service: 0800 100 900 <https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk>

You could move into specialist cleaning or a more senior managerial or supervisory role.
You could also start your own business.

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