Can Women be Water Treatment Technicians?

YES!

“I have a better understanding how important it is to have good quality water.” —Melissa McCoy

Regardless of Gender Water Treatment Technicians need to:

- See details of objects whether they are nearby or far away.
- Make quick, precise adjustments to machine controls.
- Hold the arm and hand in one position or hold the hand steady while moving the arm.
- Move two or more limbs together (for example, two arms, two legs, or one leg and one arm) while remaining in place.
- Use one or two hands to grasp, move, or assemble objects.
- Use stomach and lower back muscles to support the body for long periods without getting tired.
- Add chemicals to water and other liquids, such as ammonia.
- Operate devices that feed chemicals into water or wastewater. Adjust the amount of chemicals.
- Read, interpret, and adjust meters and gauges to make sure plant equipment is operating properly.
- Take samples of water and perform lab analyses.
- Use a variety of instruments to sample and measure water quality.
- Maintain records of operational data, employee attendance, and meter and gauge readings.
- Make minor repairs to valves, pumps, and other equipment, using hand and power tools.
- Clean tanks and filter beds, using hand and power tools.
- May direct and coordinate other plant workers.
- Control processing equipment in water treatment plants.
- Use computers to monitor equipment, store data, make processing decisions, and write reports.
- May work under emergency conditions, using special safety equipment and procedures.
- May perform all water treatment duties, or monitor only one process.
- Stay informed of federal regulations and how they affect their plant. Be aware of local and state guidelines.

Idaho Wages

Hourly wage $10.83$ to $21.19
Median wage $14.76

Preparation

To work as a Water Resource Tech, you must:

- complete a water treatment technology program;
- complete on-the-job training;
- And pass state or local licensing exams.
- Technical and Associate of Applied Science degrees are offered at the College of Southern Idaho.

Idaho Employment

562 jobs — Medium occupation
32% — annual growth
40 — annual jobs open
Nationally, women make up 4.0% of the labor force. Source: U.S. Dept of Labor (2006)

Job Outlook

Opportunities for water treatment plant operators should be good. While this occupation has a low turnover rate, it also has a low number of applicants for jobs. Thus, qualified applicants should have good job prospects. Water and wastewater treatment plant operators generally have steady employment. This is because their services are needed regardless of the state of the economy.

College of Southern Idaho—Center for New Directions
Non Traditional Occupations Program
Call 732-6688
For more information about the
CSI Water Resource Program
Call Dr. Ross Spackman—732-6405.

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