

Thinking Ahead?

Cleaning

Produced by
Manchester Adult Education Service
Information and Guidance Team
Updated: 2018

Learner Services

What does a cleaner actually do?

You could clean in many different buildings like colleges, offices, homes, restaurants or pubs.

You may also specialise in certain areas like:

You'd need to know which cleaning chemicals to use for each task. You'll follow safety procedures as set out by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) on the [control of substances hazardous to health \(COSHH\)](#).

You may have to carry out some simple maintenance of equipment and check the stock levels of cleaning materials.

Where do they work?

- ✓ hospital wards and operating theatres
- ✓ carpets and upholstery
- ✓ food premises
- ✓ industrial buildings
- ✓ house and squat clearance
- ✓ passenger vehicles
- ✓ cleaning at heights, using ladders or mobile access equipment
- ✓ clearing up at crime scenes, or after fires or floods

What skills and personal qualities do they need?

- ✓ 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

How do I get into cleaning?

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.

Where can I study?

BURY College (www.burycollege.ac.uk) Tel: 0161 280 8280

Pre-Employment in the Facilities and Cleaning Industry.

What does Virgin Atlantic, Buckingham Palace, Manchester United, Harrods and Princess Cruises have in common? They All employ Facilities and Cleaning Managers.

Times are changing! Turn your personal pride and life skills into a rewarding, secure career in the Facilities and Cleaning Industry; from owning your own business to travelling the world.

At Bury College we offer Pre-Employment courses to allow you to get a feel for our Industry. You will begin by attending college 1 day a week for 4 weeks to achieve a Level 1 in the Introduction to Facilities Services. This is a theory and practical based course. You can then move on to a Level 2 course in Cleaning Principles which is 1 day a week for 6 weeks.

After completing these courses there may be an opportunity to progress on to a Level 2 Apprenticeship in Facilities or Cleaning, finally completing Level 3 courses in Facilities Management and Cleaning Supervision.

What are you waiting for? Take the first step by enrolling on the course.

http://www.burycollege.ac.uk/sitefiles/files/newappscourses/Cleaning_Level_2.pdf

Online courses

<https://www.reed.co.uk/courses/profile/be-acouk>

<http://www.cleaningcertificate.co.uk/>

<http://www.ukcommercialcleaning.co.uk/cleaning-courses/>

http://www.emagister.co.uk/cleaning_courses-ek1000000360.htm

<http://www.cleaningmasterclass.com/>

[British Institute of Cleaning Science](#)

What are the job prospects for cleaning

Starter: £12,000

Experienced: £16,000

Highly Experienced: £18,000 (supervisor)

Part-time cleaners are usually paid by the hour. Rates are often in line with the [national minimum wage](#).

You may have to work when buildings are closed for normal activities. This could be in the evenings, early morning or at weekends.

In a full-time job you'd usually work 35 to 40 hours a week. You could also work part-time or on a casual basis.

In a private home, you may work during the day and be expected to do other tasks like ironing.

Depending on the job, you might clean the same area every day, or go to different sites. If you're a supervisor, you may visit teams of cleaners working in different locations.

You may need a full driving licence and use of a vehicle to travel between sites.

If you're a live-in cleaner, your pay may be reduced to cover accommodation costs

Thinking Ahead -Cleaning.doc

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

Related careers

You may be interested in:

- [Industrial cleaner](#)
- [Car valet](#)
- [Caretaker](#)
- [Highways cleaner](#)
- [Hotel room attendant](#)

National Careers Service:

Careers advice, job search, CV's and skills assessment.

Freephone: **0800 100 900**

Website: <https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk>

More information

You are advised to check material facts as although every effort has been made to ensure that information given is up to date we are aware that information is subject to change. The website links are used to provide further information and are not intended to signify that MAES endorses such websites and their content.