



Clean Things

# Janitor

## Other names for this job

Caretaker, custodian

## What do janitors do?

Janitors work in office buildings, schools, stores, factories and apartment buildings. They clean inside buildings. They clean floors, furniture and **equipment**. They sometimes work outside buildings, too.

## Meet a janitor

Alex is a janitor. He works for a cleaning company. He cleans office buildings.

Here are things that Alex does:

- He empties garbage cans.
- He cleans washrooms. He puts in paper towels and toilet paper.
- He dusts furniture. For example, desks, tables and chairs.
- He vacuums carpets and washes floors.
- He cleans mirrors and glass.
- He sometimes washes walls.

Sometimes Alex has to do extra work. For example, people move out of the building. Alex cleans their offices after they move out.

## What is Alex's work like?

Alex starts work at 5 p.m. He works when the offices are empty.

He usually works indoors. He has to shovel the sidewalk in the winter.

Alex stands, walks and bends a lot at work. He lifts and moves things. Sometimes Alex has to lift furniture and equipment. These things can weigh up to 20 kilograms (about 45 pounds).





### Do you want to be a janitor?

- You need to be healthy. You must be able to stand and walk for many hours. You must be able to bend and stretch.
- You must be able to understand **instructions**. For example, the **supervisor** may tell you what to do.
- You must like to use machines. For example, vacuums and floor polishers.
- You should like to do things in the same order. For example, first you empty the wastebaskets. Then you dust. Then you vacuum.
- You may need a **criminal record check**.

### What education do janitors need?

- Most janitors learn on the job. They don't need to have a high school **diploma**.
- At some jobs janitors must take safety training called **WHMIS** (say: wim-mis). WHMIS means Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System.

You can ask your **career advisor** or tutor about working as a janitor. You can ask about training, too.

### What can janitors do in the future?

Janitors often work for cleaning companies. These companies often clean office buildings, factories or schools.

Janitors with **experience** can start their own business. Some janitors may become building operators.

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#### How much does a janitor make?

A janitor usually makes between \$10.00 and \$28.00 per hour.

### tip

Do you see some words in **bold**?  
 You can look up these words in the  
 Easy Reading Job Profiles Dictionary.

## Other jobs to think about

**Auto detailers** clean cars and trucks. They wash and wax the outside. They dust, vacuum and clean the inside.

**Carpet and upholstery cleaners** clean carpets. They also clean furniture that has **upholstery**. They go to customers' homes and businesses.

**Housekeeping attendants** work in hotels and motels. They tidy and clean hallways and rooms. For example, bedrooms, bathrooms and meeting rooms. They also put in clean **supplies**.



## Do you want more information?

You can find the information below at [alis.alberta.ca/occinfo](http://alis.alberta.ca/occinfo). Or, you can ask your career advisor or tutor.

- OCCinfo profile: Custodian
- Easy Reading Job Profiles Dictionary

You can also ask your career advisor or tutor about jobs that are like Janitor.

