



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. But sometimes Alex works outside. He checks the drains and the heating and cooling equipment on the roof. In the winter, Alex shovels the sidewalks.

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 \$15.00 and \$27.44 per hour.


tip

Do you see words in **bold**?
 You can look up these words at
alis.alberta.ca/ERdictionary.

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 towels and other **supplies**.



Do you want more information?

You can find the information below at alis.alberta.ca/occinfo. Or you can ask your career advisor or tutor.

- [OCCinfo profile: Custodian](#)
- [Video: Custodian](#)
- [Easy Reading Dictionary](#)

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

