


 Drive or  
 Move Things

# Truck Driver

## Other names for this job

Delivery person, driver

## What do truck drivers do?

Truck drivers drive trucks and **tractor-trailers**. They **deliver** things. Some truck drivers drive in their local area. Other truck drivers drive long distances.

## Meet a local truck driver

Kyle is a truck driver. He works for a parts company. He delivers car parts to local stores.

Here are things that Kyle does:

- Kyle reads the list of deliveries for the day.
- Kyle checks his truck. He checks the brakes, tires and lights.
- He helps to load the truck.
- He drives the truck. He parks it at **loading docks**. He helps to unload the truck.
- He keeps **records** of deliveries.

- He takes the empty truck back to the **warehouse**.
- Sometimes customers want to return parts. Kyle has to pick up the parts.

### tip

Do you see words in **bold**?  
 You can look up these words at  
[alis.alberta.ca/ERdictionary](http://alis.alberta.ca/ERdictionary).



## What is Kyle's work like?

Kyle works from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m. He works five days a week. He has Sundays and Mondays off.

Kyle is in and out of the truck all day. He works in good and bad weather. Sometimes he has to find a new address. He uses a map.

Kyle lifts things that weigh over 20 kilograms (over 45 pounds).

## Do you want to be a truck driver?

- You need to be healthy. You must have good eyesight. For example, Kyle needs to read signs. He has to see other drivers and traffic problems.
- You need to have a very good driving record. You always have to pay attention to traffic. You need to know about traffic laws.
- You must be polite with customers and **co-workers**.
- You must be good at writing down information about deliveries.
- You must be good at finding addresses. You have to read maps.
- You need to be able to take care of your truck. For example, in an **emergency**.
- You may need a **criminal record check**.

## What education do truck drivers need?

- Truck drivers don't need a high school **diploma**. Some employers want truck drivers to have Grade 10 reading and writing.
- Truck drivers need a special **driver's licence**. For example, Class 1, Class 2 or Class 3. They have to be at least 18 years old. They must take the driver's test and pass it. They have to pass certain medical tests. Some truck drivers take driving courses.
- Some truck drivers need to 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 truck driver. You can ask about training, too.



## What can truck drivers do in the future?

Truck drivers can drive many kinds of trucks. For example, garbage trucks, moving vans or gravel trucks. Local truck drivers can become long distance truck drivers.

Some truck drivers have their own trucks. They have their own business.

Truck drivers may change jobs. For example, they may work as dispatchers. Dispatchers work in an office. They take phone calls from customers. They tell drivers where to go. They plan **schedules** for the drivers.

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### How much does a truck driver make?

A truck driver usually makes between \$24.51 and \$32.60 per hour.

## Other jobs to think about

**Bus drivers** drive buses. For example, school buses or city buses. Bus drivers usually drive the same route every day. They often answer questions or give information to people.

**Couriers** pick up and deliver letters or packages. They drive a car or van. Some couriers may ride a bike. They have to fill out forms.



**Taxi drivers** often work for a taxi company. They pick up and drop off passengers. Taxi drivers must find many different addresses quickly.

## 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: Truck Driver
- Videos: Truck Driver, Bus Driver
- Easy Reading Dictionary

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