

# Water and Wastewater Treatment Plant and System Operators

SOC: 51-8031 • Career Profile Report

## ■ Key Facts

\$58,260

Median Salary

8,700

Employment

-7.0%

Growth Rate

## ■ Requirements & Salary Range

Education: High school diploma

## ■ Automation Risk Assessment

**Medium Risk** - 38.0% probability of being automated in the next 10-20 years.

This job has some routine elements but still requires human judgment and interaction.

## ■ Work-Life Balance

7.8/10 - Good work-life balance

## ■ Personality Fit (RIASEC)

Higher scores indicate better personality fit for this career type.

Realistic	8.4/10	Investigative	5.0/10
Artistic	3.8/10	Social	4.6/10
Enterprising	4.0/10	Conventional	8.0/10

## ■ Top Skills Required

Critical and analytical thinking skills, Computer skills, Detail oriented, Math skills, Mechanical skills, Problem-solving skills

### ✓ Strengths

- High Demand
- Flexible Work
- Continuous Learning

### ■ Challenges

- Burnout Risk
- Rapid Technological Change

## ■ What They Do

Water and Wastewater Treatment Plant and System Operators typically perform the following tasks:

- Collect and test water and sewage samples, using test equipment and color analysis standards.
- Operate and adjust controls on equipment to purify and clarify water, process or dispose of sewage, and generate power.
- Record operational data, personnel attendance, or meter and gauge readings on specified forms.
- Add chemicals, such as ammonia, chlorine, or lime, to disinfect and deodorize water and other liquids.
- Inspect equipment or monitor operating conditions, meters, and gauges to determine load requirements and detect malfunctions.
- Direct and coordinate plant workers engaged in routine operations and maintenance activities.
- Clean and maintain tanks, filter beds, and other work areas, using hand tools and power tools.
- Maintain, repair, and lubricate equipment, using hand tools and power tools.
- Complete wastewater discharge monitoring reports and maintenance logs.
- Maintain and repair portable safety equipment and permanent safety infrastructure to ensure operational readiness and compliance with safety protocols.

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*Generated by StartRight • Data from U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics & O\*NET*

Source: <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/production/water-and-wastewater-treatment-plant-and-system-operators.htm>