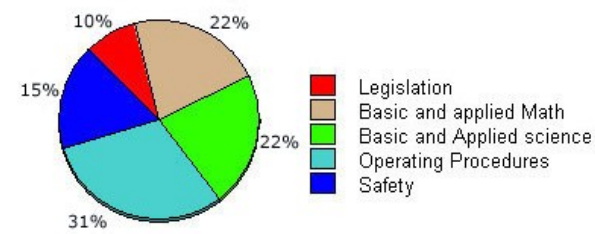


Our Dryden training facility offers a 4-day course to help you prepare to pass the Operator-in-Training (OIT) exam.

The following graph outlines the five topics that will be covered during this course.



Operators ensure that water coming out of the tap meets regulatory standards.

They maintain and repair equipment used to process and distribute water for human consumption.



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**THE WORLD OF WATER**



Be part of a rewarding career  
and play a role in protecting  
public health and  
the environment.



# A Rewarding Career

## What do water & wastewater plant operators do?

Operators ensure that residents have safe clean water in accordance with provincial and federal regulatory standards. Water treatment plant operators maintain and repair the equipment used to process and distribute water for human consumption and industrial use.

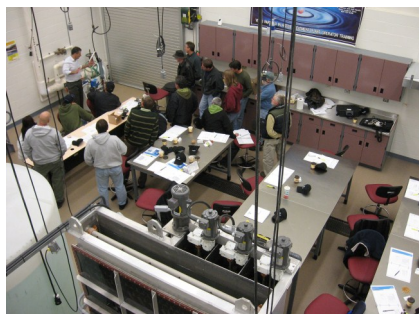
Operators can actually work in many different types of plants. Water treatment plants treat water taken from lakes, wells, or rivers. This water ultimately is pumped through distribution pipes where it is used everyday in a home or where it might be used by factories for industrial purposes. Wastewater operators treat liquid waste flowing *from* residential, commercial and industrial locations, enabling the waste to safely return to lakes, rivers and oceans. These plants remove harmful organisms and bacteria and chemical compounds that might pose a threat to the environment, or to the health of human beings.

Some facilities rely heavily on computers to monitor water and store sampling results. Operators may perform multiple duties or specialize in just one sort of process.



### Operator Duties:

- inspect, repair, clean, and maintain water treatment processes and mechanical equipment in operation,
- add chemicals and operate equipment that purifies water for drinking or cleans it for safe disposal,
- test water for chlorine, acidity, oxygen demand, and impurities,
- regulate the flow of drinking water to meet demand,
- keep records of chemical treatments, water pressure, and maintenance,
- operate valves, pumps, motors, chemical feeders, agitators, and filters to control the flow and purification process of water, and unload, store, and use dangerous chemicals.



## Education:

A high school diploma or GED satisfies the basic educational requirement for water and wastewater plant operators. As water treatment methods become more complex, postsecondary education will probably become even more important. Programs including water quality and treatment would increase an applicant's chances of employment and promotion.



## Certification & licensing:

The Operator-in-Training (OIT) course is the first step in obtaining certification as a water or wastewater plant operator. Operators continue with their licensing and certification by specializing in water treatment, water distribution, wastewater treatment or wastewater collection. A water/wastewater plant operator obtains his or her certification through the Ontario Environmental Training Consortium (OETC). There are 4 levels to each area— levels 1 to 4 in Water Distribution, Water Treatment, Wastewater Treatment and Wastewater Collection.



## Where do water & wastewater operators work?

Water/wastewater plant operators work both indoors and outdoors in all kinds of weather. This person may work independently and is expected to maintain a schedule of delivery, collection and disposal. Operators may find employment or advance to other positions in water and wastewater treatment facilities such as working in analytical laboratories, working as a water quality technician, a laboratory technician, a drinking water inspector, and working in the field of health and safety or as a water or wastewater instructor.



## Skills & knowledge

Operators should be familiar and have experience with:

- basic mechanical, electrical, hydraulic and laboratory principles,
- modern water treatment methods, theories and practices,
- safe drinking water regulations,
- basic calculations, basic algebra, and chemistry,
- the use of hand and power tools,
- working with precision and being comfortable with routine, repetitive work,
- reading and understanding the output of various gauges and other instruments,
- reading instructions, maintenance manuals, and Material Safety Data Sheets,
- stress management skills,
- keeping detailed and accurate records,
- following instructions,
- working with computers,
- decision-making skills, and
- manual labour - bending, climbing, and heavy lifting.

In addition to career-specific skills, operators need these basic skills:

- reading, Math, writing, speaking and listening skills,
- computer literacy,
- problem-solving & decision-making,
- understanding the broader picture,
- working with people strong work ethic,
- positive attitude,
- independence & initiative,
- self-presentation.



## Job outlook

Water is a dynamic field of study and employment. To have access to safe water, every community needs skilled and dedicated people who work to provide clean water that meets today's strict environmental standards.



## Earnings

Approximately in the \$30-55,000 range

## Bursary

In order to encourage operators to further their education into the water and wastewater field of work, Keewatinook offers a bursary award to recognize those individuals who have attained a high standing in their training endeavours and wish to continue with their studies. High school students entering the field of environmental science may also be eligible for this bursary.

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