

# Hazardous Materials Removal Workers

SOC: 47-4041 • Career Profile Report

## ■ Key Facts

**\$48,490**

Median Salary

**51,300**

Employment

**+1.0%**

Growth Rate

## ■ Requirements & Salary Range

**Education:** High school diploma

## ■ Automation Risk Assessment

**Medium Risk** - 35.0% 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

**6.2/10** - Good work-life balance

## ■ Personality Fit (RIASEC)

Higher scores indicate better personality fit for this career type.

Realistic	9.4/10	Investigative	5.8/10
Artistic	4.0/10	Social	5.0/10
Enterprising	5.0/10	Conventional	6.0/10

## ■ Top Skills Required

Decision-making skills, Detail oriented, Mechanical skills, Physical stamina, Physical strength

### ✓ Strengths

- High Demand
- Flexible Work
- Continuous Learning

### ■ Challenges

- Burnout Risk
- Rapid Technological Change

## ■ What They Do

Hazardous Materials Removal Workers are specialized safety professionals who identify, handle, and dispose of **dangerous substances that pose risks to people, property, and the environment**. They remove materials such as asbestos, lead, mold, chemicals, radioactive waste, and contaminated soil from buildings and work sites. Their work is critical to public health, environmental protection, and safe redevelopment of contaminated areas.

This career is well suited for individuals who can follow strict procedures, work carefully in high-risk environments, and prioritize safety at all times.

## What Do Hazardous Materials Removal Workers Do?

These workers contain, remove, and clean up hazardous substances using specialized equipment and safety protocols. Their responsibilities focus on risk control, regulatory compliance, and proper disposal.

Common responsibilities include:

- Identifying and assessing hazardous materials at worksites
- Setting up containment areas and decontamination zones
- Wearing protective suits, respirators, and safety gear
- Removing asbestos, lead-based paint, mold, or chemical waste
- Operating decontamination and air-monitoring equipment
- Packaging, labeling, and transporting hazardous materials
- Following federal, state, and local safety regulations

## Types of Hazardous Materials Removal Work

This occupation includes several specialized roles:

- Asbestos Abatement Workers: Remove asbestos from buildings and industrial sites.
- Lead Abatement Workers: Eliminate lead-based paint and contaminated dust.
- Hazardous Waste Technicians: Handle chemical, biological, or radioactive materials.
- Environmental Remediation Workers: Clean contaminated soil, water, or industrial sites.
- Mold Remediation Specialists: Remove mold and restore safe indoor environments.
- Emergency Spill Response Workers: Respond to chemical spills or accidents.

## Skills and Abilities Needed

Hazardous materials removal workers combine physical capability with strict procedural discipline.

### **Core Professional Skills**

### **Personal Qualities That Matter**

## Education and Training Pathway

Most hazardous materials removal workers receive specialized training before entering the field:

- High School Diploma or Equivalent: Typical minimum requirement
- Formal Safety Training: Instruction in hazardous materials handling
- Certification Programs: OSHA, asbestos, or lead abatement certifications
- On-the-Job Training: Learning site-specific procedures and equipment
- Ongoing Recertification: Required to stay compliant with safety regulations

Training requirements vary depending on the type of hazardous material handled.

## Where Do Hazardous Materials Removal Workers Work?

These professionals work in a wide range of environments:

- Construction and Demolition Sites
- Industrial and Manufacturing Facilities
- Residential and Commercial Buildings
- Environmental Cleanup and Remediation Sites
- Government and Emergency Response Projects
- Nuclear or Chemical Processing Facilities

Work often takes place in protective gear and controlled zones.

## How Much Do Hazardous Materials Removal Workers Earn?

Earnings vary based on specialization, certifications, and work conditions:

- Entry-Level Workers: Typically earn hourly wages with training
- Certified or Specialized Workers: Often earn higher pay due to risk and expertise
- Emergency or Hazardous Assignments: May include premium pay or overtime

Compensation often reflects the hazardous nature of the work.

## Is This Career Difficult?

This career is physically demanding and safety-critical. Workers operate in hazardous environments while wearing heavy protective gear and following complex procedures. The challenge lies in maintaining focus, accuracy, and safety under physically and mentally stressful conditions.

## Who Should Consider This Career?

This career may be a strong fit if you:

- Are comfortable working in high-risk environments
- Can strictly follow safety rules and procedures
- Have physical endurance and mental discipline
- Want a hands-on role protecting public health
- Prefer specialized trade work with clear protocols

## How to Prepare Early

- Learn basic safety and health principles
- Build physical stamina and resilience
- Take environmental science or chemistry courses
- Research OSHA and abatement certification pathways
- Gain experience through construction or industrial work

**Hazardous materials removal workers protect communities and the environment by safely eliminating dangerous substances, making buildings, land, and workplaces safe for future use.**