

Janitors and Building Cleaners

SOC: 37-2011 • Career Profile Report

■ Key Facts

\$35,930

Median Salary

2,447,700

Employment

+2.0%

Growth Rate

■ Requirements & Salary Range

Education: No formal educational credential

■ Automation Risk Assessment

Medium Risk - 45.0% 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

8.2/10 - Excellent work-life balance

■ Personality Fit (RIASEC)

Higher scores indicate better personality fit for this career type.

Realistic	8.6/10	Investigative	4.0/10
Artistic	3.6/10	Social	5.4/10
Enterprising	4.0/10	Conventional	7.2/10

■ Top Skills Required

Interpersonal skills, Mechanical skills, Physical stamina, Physical strength, Time-management skills

✓ Strengths

- High Demand
- Flexible Work
- Continuous Learning

■ Challenges

- Burnout Risk
- Rapid Technological Change

■ What They Do

Janitors and Building Cleaners maintain **clean, safe, and orderly environments in residential, commercial, and public buildings**. They perform cleaning, sanitation, and minor maintenance tasks to ensure facilities are functional and hygienic. Their work is critical in promoting health, safety, and comfort in workplaces and public spaces.

This career is well suited for individuals who enjoy practical, hands-on work, organization, and maintaining cleanliness.

What Do Janitors and Building Cleaners Do?

These professionals clean, maintain, and repair buildings, ensuring a sanitary and pleasant environment.

Common responsibilities include:

- Sweeping, mopping, vacuuming, and polishing floors
- Cleaning restrooms, offices, and common areas
- Emptying trash, recycling, and waste containers
- Maintaining cleaning equipment and supplies
- Performing minor repairs and maintenance tasks
- Ensuring compliance with safety and sanitation standards
- Reporting larger maintenance or safety issues to management

Key Areas of Janitorial Work

Janitors and building cleaners may focus on specific cleaning tasks, maintenance, or facility management:

- Routine Cleaning: Daily upkeep of floors, surfaces, and restrooms
- Specialized Cleaning: Carpet, window, or industrial cleaning tasks
- Maintenance Support: Minor repairs and preventive facility upkeep
- Sanitation and Safety: Ensuring hygienic conditions and compliance with regulations
- Inventory and Equipment Management: Tracking cleaning supplies and maintaining tools

Skills and Abilities Needed

These professionals combine practical, technical, and organizational skills.

Core Professional Skills

Personal Qualities That Matter

Education and Career Pathway

This role typically requires minimal formal education but benefits from training and experience:

- High School Diploma or GED (optional): Basic literacy, numeracy, and organizational skills
- On-the-Job Training: Practical instruction in cleaning techniques and equipment use
- Specialized Certifications (optional): Safety, hazardous materials, or industrial cleaning credentials
- Continuing Education: Learning new cleaning methods, safety practices, and equipment operation

Where Do Janitors and Building Cleaners Work?

They are employed in a variety of settings requiring facility maintenance and cleanliness:

- Schools and Educational Facilities
- Hospitals and Healthcare Centers
- Offices and Commercial Buildings
- Hotels, Restaurants, and Public Venues
- Industrial or Manufacturing Facilities

Work environments include indoor and outdoor areas, various building types, and areas with high traffic or specialized cleaning needs.

Is This Career Difficult?

This career requires physical stamina, attention to detail, and consistency. Janitors must manage repetitive tasks, maintain safety, and meet cleanliness standards under time constraints.

Who Should Consider This Career?

This career may be a strong fit if you:

- Enjoy practical, hands-on work
- Are detail-oriented and thorough
- Can work independently or as part of a team
- Are physically capable of performing cleaning and maintenance tasks
- Want a career supporting safe and hygienic environments

How to Prepare Early

- Learn basic cleaning techniques and sanitation practices
- Volunteer or gain experience in cleaning or maintenance roles
- Develop attention to detail, organization, and reliability
- Familiarize yourself with cleaning equipment and supplies
- Explore certifications in safety, hazardous materials, or industrial cleaning if interested

Janitors and building cleaners maintain clean, safe, and functional environments, supporting the health, safety, and comfort of people in a wide variety of facilities.

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

Source: <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/building-and-grounds-cleaning/janitors-and-building-cleaners.htm>