

Pest Control Workers

SOC: 37-2021 • Career Profile Report

■ Key Facts

\$44,730

Median Salary

102,400

Employment

+5.0%

Growth Rate

■ Requirements & Salary Range

Education: High school diploma

■ 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

8.5/10 - 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

Bookkeeping skills, Customer-service skills, Detail oriented, Physical stamina

✓ Strengths

- High Demand
- Flexible Work
- Continuous Learning

■ Challenges

- Burnout Risk
- Rapid Technological Change

■ What They Do

Pest Control Workers inspect, identify, and manage **pest infestations to protect public health, property, and agriculture**. They apply chemical, biological, and mechanical methods to eliminate or prevent pests. Their work is critical in residential, commercial, and agricultural settings.

This career is well suited for individuals who enjoy hands-on work, problem-solving, and environmental safety.

What Do Pest Control Workers Do?

These professionals assess infestations, determine treatment plans, and apply pest control methods safely and effectively.

Common responsibilities include:

- Inspecting buildings, homes, and agricultural areas for pest activity
- Identifying types of pests and evaluating the extent of infestations
- Applying pesticides, traps, or other control measures
- Advising clients on preventive measures and proper sanitation
- Monitoring treated areas and adjusting methods as needed
- Maintaining records of treatments and safety procedures
- Complying with local, state, and federal regulations regarding pesticide use

Key Areas of Pest Control

Workers may focus on specific pests, environments, or control techniques:

- Residential and Commercial Pest Control: Managing insects, rodents, and other common pests
- Agricultural Pest Management: Protecting crops and livestock from harmful pests
- Integrated Pest Management: Using environmentally sensitive and sustainable approaches
- Inspection and Monitoring: Detecting infestations and evaluating effectiveness of treatments
- Safety and Regulatory Compliance: Following protocols to protect humans, animals, and the environment

Skills and Abilities Needed

Pest control workers combine technical, observational, and safety skills.

Core Professional Skills

Personal Qualities That Matter

Education and Career Pathway

This role typically requires technical training and on-the-job experience:

- High School Diploma or GED (minimum): Basic math, reading, and science skills
- Postsecondary Training or Certification: Pest control programs, pesticide application, or environmental health courses
- Apprenticeship or On-the-Job Training: Learning safe application techniques, inspection methods, and client interaction
- Licensing or Certification: Required in most states to apply pesticides legally
- Continuing Education: Staying updated on pest control methods, regulations, and safety practices

Where Do Pest Control Workers Work?

They are employed in organizations that manage pest prevention and control:

- Pest Control Companies
- Agricultural and Farm Operations
- Government and Public Health Agencies
- Commercial and Residential Properties

- Industrial and Food Production Facilities

Work environments include homes, farms, businesses, industrial sites, and outdoor areas.

Is This Career Difficult?

This career requires attention to detail, safety awareness, and physical ability. Workers must handle chemicals carefully, follow regulations, and manage potentially hazardous environments.

Who Should Consider This Career?

This career may be a strong fit if you:

- Enjoy hands-on work and problem-solving
- Are detail-oriented and safety-conscious
- Can communicate effectively with clients
- Are physically capable and adaptable
- Want a career protecting people, property, and the environment from pests

How to Prepare Early

- Take courses in biology, environmental science, or chemistry
- Volunteer or intern with pest control or environmental services
- Learn safe handling and application of chemicals
- Explore vocational or certificate programs in pest control
- Gain hands-on experience in inspection, monitoring, and treatment methods

Pest control workers protect public health, property, and agriculture by identifying, managing, and preventing pest infestations safely and effectively.

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

Source: <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/building-and-grounds-cleaning/pest-control-workers.htm>