

# Just the Job Info Sheet Water Treatment

## Job title/s

Water Reticulation (Service person), level 3  
Installation and maintenance technician

## Job description

Maintaining and installing Reticulation Infrastructure. That is, all the pipes that carry Drinking Water or Wastewater and Stormwater. In New Zealand, the value of this infrastructure runs to many tens of billions of dollars, and those thousands and thousands of kilometres of pipes (some as thick as your thumb, some much taller than a man) continually need maintenance, upgrades, and extensions. So it's a huge field, employing thousands of people.

## Qualifications required

Open Entry. No Prior training is required, although practical subjects and or maths would be a bonus. Above all, a positive attitude, willingness to work and enthusiasm is absolutely essential.

## Training costs

National Certificate in Water Reticulation (Service person), level 3 is the national "standard" qualification in this industry, which newcomers can expect to complete within about 18 months of joining the industry.

This is a course designed for people working in the industry, so we'd encourage people to find work in the industry first. Water Industry Training can help place you in a job. Training costs are almost always met by the employer.

## Location of job

Outdoors most of the time. It's a practical job, so suits hands-on people keen to learn an essential "trade". But there are highly technical aspects of the industry that employees can pursue if they are interested in doing so.

## Career path

- \* Work experience is available from many high schools as part of the Gateway Programme.
- \* Trainees can join as a modern apprentice, or simply by starting work with an employer in the industry.
- \* Young trainees who show aptitude and can shoulder some responsibility can expect to attain a Reticulation Supervisor position in four to six years.
- \* Most employers give regular wage rises as skills and competence increase.
- \* Trainees who complete reticulation training can go on to study advanced reticulation (supervisor) training, or specialise in an area like pipe lagging, backflow protection, or pursue engineering training through polytechnic.

## Salary range

Many employers begin new employees just a dollar or two above Minimum wage, but trainees who complete their National Certificate and a Modern Apprenticeship can expect to be on \$16-\$18 per hour in 3 years, depending on the employer, possibly with some access to a company vehicle.

**Other careers this profession could lead to:**

- \* Civil Contracting industry
- \* Irrigation careers in some localities (central Otago, Canterbury, etc)
- \* Water treatment Training (this is a large and specialised related field),
- \* Engineering

**How to increase the chances of successfully entering this industry:**

Contact Water Industry Training on 0800 928 374, or via our website. We can put you onto likely employers in your region and give you tips on how to make the best impression on them. We can also work with employers to create Modern Apprenticeship opportunities for the right applicants, even if there are no jobs “officially” available.

**Other places to source information about this job:**

Water Industry Training Website, [www.waterIT.ac.nz](http://www.waterIT.ac.nz)

**Any other relevant points:**

Don't think you are not qualified enough to enter this industry! A good positive attitude and a willingness to work hard are all that's required to break in, and you will receive all the training you need to forge a strong future as a skilled reticulation technician, at your employers expense!.