



San José-Santa Clara Regional Wastewater Facility

Air Conditioning Mechanic Profile

Name: Peter Williams

Job Category: Air Conditioning Mechanic



1. Please describe the work you do:

As an air conditioning mechanic I take care of all the heating, ventilation, air conditioning and refrigeration requirements at the Facility. These duties encompass:

- Maintenance and repair work on standard heating and cooling systems for building comfort;
- Work on equipment such as chillers, boilers, pumps, air handlers, and control systems; and
- Installation of new equipment

We also specialize in maintenance and operation of heating and cooling loops related to industrial processes. These duties encompass:

- Working with heat exchangers, steam valves and auxiliary equipment for process loops;
- Ensuring that industrial equipment have adequate cooling; and
- Maintaining air quality for personnel safety.

2. What combination of education, vocational training, apprenticeship, experience, and/or skill did you obtain in order to be qualified and selected for your job?

After high school, I went to a vocational school and received a certificate in HVAC & R (heating, ventilation, air conditioning and refrigeration). Then I began working for various companies. I gained experience as a service technician. I attended seminars and classes as I was working. These extra trainings gave me additional certifications, such as a Boiler Operator License, Johnson Controls Pneumatic Certification, Trane Centrifugal Chiller Certification, etc.

3. What do you like best about your job?

I enjoy the customer service aspect of my job. I really like helping people when they have a problem with their building temperature. I enjoy problem-solving. I enjoy the feeling of accomplishment when I am able to fix something that is broken.

4. Please tell us about the projects and activities you have enjoyed most in your work in the water/wastewater field, and what made them rewarding,

My favorite kind of projects is the coordination and procurement of new equipment installations. My most recent installation project was of a 100 percent, outside air ventilation unit with auxiliary heating. Coordinating the contractors, the crane to lift the unit into place, and our personnel to assist in this project was rewarding when we saw the job complete.

5. What qualities and capabilities are needed in order for a person in your area of expertise to be successful in the water/wastewater industry?

You have to have a natural curiosity for the way things work. And in addition to that curiosity, have the ability to make reasonable observations about what needs to be changed in order to make something work better. Being mechanically inclined is needed.

The ability to listen to the needs of others and prioritize their needs with the available resources is very important. The ability to interact with other work groups respectfully is a must.

6. Do you have any advice for an individual who is considering pursuing a career in your field in the water/wastewater industry?

Stay in school and educate yourself. Concentrate on developing your reading skills. If you are a good reader, grasping technical information will be a lot easier for you.

Math and science are important subjects to know too. I recommend going to a vocational school to get a good educational foundation in HVAC & R. Learn the science behind the things we take for granted, like air conditioning!