

Manufacturing

TEXTILE PRODUCTION WORKER

Related jobs:

- Cutter
- Material handler
- Production supervisor
- Sewing machinist
- Soft furnishing maker
- Textile technician

What does a textile production worker do?

Find a career path that's a perfect fit in textile, clothing and footwear production.

Textile production workers are involved in all stages of fabrication from marking and cutting the material through to assembling the end product. Their tasks may include:

- Selecting and developing dyes
- Undertaking basic hand or machine operations to prepare materials
- Mixing fibres into uniform blends or adding dyes or chemicals
- Examining final products for defects

Textile production workers use a range of materials to create diverse products. They may work with natural fabrics such as cotton, linen and wool or high-tech synthetic and polymer fabrics like the multi-layered Goretex.

Although most people associate textiles with clothing, footwear or floor coverings, textile production workers also manufacture products such as tents, vehicle covers, baggage, pool covers and yacht sails.

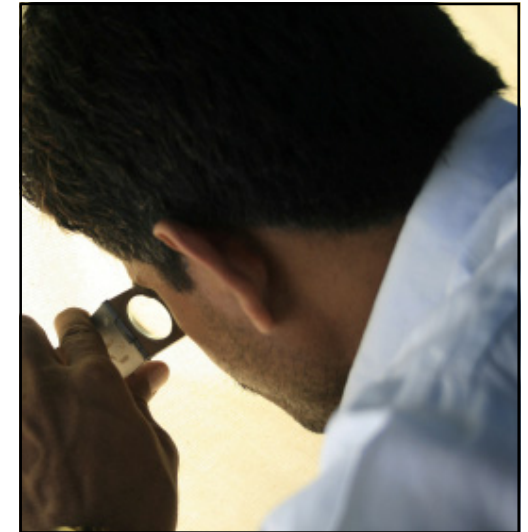
Life is for living

There are opportunities for advancement in this large industry. With training and experience, you may advance into a range of technical and design occupations or management positions.

There are also opportunities for you to operate your own 'cottage industry' and produce specialist textile products to service niche markets.

Working hours vary depending on the role and the organisation, but you may be required to work shifts in the evenings and at weekends.

Working extra hours is not uncommon in order to meet deadlines.



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What are employers looking for?

Employment prospects for textile production workers have been declining. Australian firms are increasingly moving their operations overseas because they are being undercut by cut-price import goods. This does not apply to soft furnishing production workers, however, who continue to enjoy relatively good employment prospects.

Despite the difficult labour market conditions, you can improve your appeal to employers if you:

- Enjoy practical activities
- Are able to work as part of a team
- Have an eye for detail
- Can work patiently and systematically to meet production deadlines
- Have good eyesight and hand-eye coordination and normal colour vision
- Have strong communication skills

How do I get started?

You can work as a textile production worker without formal qualifications. You will probably get informal training on the job.

Your prospects of finding employment as a textile production worker can be improved if you obtain a certificate in Clothing Production.

To gain entry to certificate courses, you usually need to successfully complete Year 10.

You can also get into the industry through a traineeship in Clothing Production or Soft Furnishing. As a trainee, you complete your studies in class and on the job. You may be able to fast-track your career by starting your traineeship while you are still at school through an Australian School based Apprenticeship. Entry requirements vary, but employers generally require pass marks in Year 10 before they will accept you as a trainee.

Talk with people who are currently working in the role to develop a better understanding of their responsibilities. This is also a useful way to build a network of contacts for the future.

Gain hands-on experience on a Structured Workplace Learning placement. You can even kick-start your career by having the tasks that you learn on the job accredited.

Websites to visit for more information:

Find out more online from:

Council of Textile and Fashion Industries of Australia
www.tfia.com.au

'Make It' Manufacturing Careers Website
www.makeit.net.au

What can you earn?

On average, textile production workers in Australia earn from \$680.00 per week.

For more information:

Phone: 1300 798 199

Email: caa@aigroup.asn.au

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Disclaimer: Earnings are indicative only as at May 2008.