Summary Report for:
51-6011.00 - Laundry and Dry-Cleaning Workers

Operate or tend washing or dry-cleaning machines to wash or dry-clean industrial or household articles, such as cloth garments, suede, leather, furs, blankets, draperies, linens, rugs, and carpets. Includes spotters and dyers of these articles.

Sample of reported job titles: Dry Cleaner, Laundry Aide, Laundry Assistant, Laundry Attendant, Laundry Housekeeper, Laundry Technician, Laundry Worker, Machine Operator, Personal Clothing Laundry Aide, Spotter

Tasks

- Load articles into washers or dry-cleaning machines, or direct other workers to perform loading.
- Start washers, dry cleaners, driers, or extractors, and turn valves or levers to regulate machine processes and the volume of soap, detergent, water, bleach, starch, and other additives.
- Operate extractors and driers, or direct their operation.
- Remove items from washers or dry-cleaning machines, or direct other workers to do so.
- Sort and count articles removed from dryers, and fold, wrap, or hang them.
- Clean machine filters, and lubricate equipment.
- Examine and sort into lots articles to be cleaned, according to color, fabric, dirt content, and cleaning technique required.
- Receive and mark articles for laundry or dry cleaning with identifying code numbers or names, using hand or machine markers.
- Apply bleaching powders to spots and spray them with steam to remove stains from fabrics that do not respond to other cleaning solvents.
- Determine spotting procedures and proper solvents, based on fabric and stain types.
- Spray steam, water, or air over spots to flush out chemicals, dry material, raise naps, or brighten colors.
Pre-soak, sterilize, scrub, spot-clean, and dry contaminated or stained articles, using neutralizer solutions and portable machines.

Mix bleaching agents with hot water in vats, and soak material until it is bleached.

Apply chemicals to neutralize the effects of solvents.

Mix and add detergents, dyes, bleaches, starches, and other solutions and chemicals to clean, color, dry, or stiffen articles.

Sprinkle chemical solvents over stains, and pat areas with brushes or sponges to remove stains.

Match sample colors, applying knowledge of bleaching agent and dye properties, and types, construction, conditions, and colors of articles.

Inspect soiled articles to determine sources of stains, to locate color imperfections, and to identify items requiring special treatment.

Operate dry-cleaning machines to clean soiled articles.

Operate machines that comb, dry and polish furs, clean, sterilize and fluff feathers and blankets, or roll and package towels.

Iron or press articles, fabrics, and furs, using hand irons or pressing machines.

Hang curtains, drapes, blankets, pants, and other garments on stretch frames to dry.

Clean fabrics, using vacuums or air hoses.

Test fabrics in inconspicuous places to determine whether solvents will damage dyes or fabrics.

Rinse articles in water and acetic acid solutions to remove excess dye and to fix colors.

Identify articles' fabrics and original dyes by sight and touch, or by testing samples with fire or chemical reagents.

Start pumps to operate distilling systems that drain and reclaim dry cleaning solvents.

Immerse articles in bleaching baths to strip colors.

Spread soiled articles on work tables, and position stained portions over vacuum heads or on marble slabs.

Mend and sew articles, using hand stitching, adhesive patches, or sewing machines.

Dye articles to change or restore their colors, using knowledge of textile compositions and the properties and effects of bleaches and dyes.
- **Folding machines** — Automatic folding machines; Semi-automatic folding machines
- **Identification markers** — Hand markers; Machine markers
- **Ironing machines or presses** — Clothing presses
- **Laundry type washing machines** — Continuous tunnel washers; Industrial washing machines

**Technology** used in this occupation:

- **Electronic mail software** — Email software
- **Office suite software** — Microsoft Office software
- **Operating system software** — Microsoft Windows
- **Point of sale POS software** — Sales processing software
- **Spreadsheet software** — Microsoft Excel

**Knowledge**

- **Customer and Personal Service** — Knowledge of principles and processes for providing customer and personal services. This includes customer needs assessment, meeting quality standards for services, and evaluation of customer satisfaction.
- **Production and Processing** — Knowledge of raw materials, production processes, quality control, costs, and other techniques for maximizing the effective manufacture and distribution of goods.

**Skills**

- **Active Listening** — Giving full attention to what other people are saying, taking time to understand the points being made, asking questions as appropriate, and not interrupting at inappropriate times.
- **Monitoring** — Monitoring/Assessing performance of yourself, other individuals, or organizations to make improvements or take corrective action.

**Abilities**

- **Arm-Hand Steadiness** — The ability to keep your hand and arm steady while moving your arm or while holding your arm and hand in one position.
Control Precision — The ability to quickly and repeatedly adjust the controls of a machine or a vehicle to exact positions.

Manual Dexterity — The ability to quickly move your hand, your hand together with your arm, or your two hands to grasp, manipulate, or assemble objects.

Near Vision — The ability to see details at close range (within a few feet of the observer).

Oral Comprehension — The ability to listen to and understand information and ideas presented through spoken words and sentences.

Work Activities

Handling and Moving Objects — Using hands and arms in handling, installing, positioning, and moving materials, and manipulating things.

Controlling Machines and Processes — Using either control mechanisms or direct physical activity to operate machines or processes (not including computers or vehicles).

Organizing, Planning, and Prioritizing Work — Developing specific goals and plans to prioritize, organize, and accomplish your work.

Performing General Physical Activities — Performing physical activities that require considerable use of your arms and legs and moving your whole body, such as climbing, lifting, balancing, walking, stooping, and handling of materials.

Communicating with Supervisors, Peers, or Subordinates — Providing information to supervisors, co-workers, and subordinates by telephone, in written form, e-mail, or in person.

Detailed Work Activities

Remove products or workpieces from production equipment.

Sew clothing or other articles.

Mount materials or workpieces onto production equipment.

Direct operational or production activities.

Mix substances to create chemical solutions.

Work Context

Spend Time Standing — 80% responded “Continually or almost continually.”
 Responsible for Others' Health and Safety — 54% responded “Very high responsibility.”

 Pace Determined by Speed of Equipment — 55% responded “Extremely important.”

 Spend Time Making Repetitive Motions — 64% responded “Continually or almost continually.”

 Wear Common Protective or Safety Equipment such as Safety Shoes, Glasses, Gloves, Hearing Protection, Hard Hats, or Life Jackets — 67% responded “Every day.”

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**Job Zone**

**Title**  
Job Zone One: Little or No Preparation Needed

**Education**  
Some of these occupations may require a high school diploma or GED certificate.

**Related Experience**  
Little or no previous work-related skill, knowledge, or experience is needed for these occupations. For example, a person can become a waiter or waitress even if he/she has never worked before.

**Job Training**  
Employees in these occupations need anywhere from a few days to a few months of training. Usually, an experienced worker could show you how to do the job.

**Job Zone Examples**  
These occupations involve following instructions and helping others. Examples include taxi drivers, amusement and recreation attendants, counter and rental clerks, nonfarm animal caretakers, continuous mining machine operators, and waiters/waitresses.

**SVP Range**  
(Below 4.0)

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**Education**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage of Respondents</th>
<th>Education Level Required</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>65</td>
<td>Less than high school diploma</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34</td>
<td>High school diploma or equivalent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Post-secondary certificate</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Credentials**
back to top

Interests

Interest code: RC

- **Realistic** — Realistic occupations frequently involve work activities that include practical, hands-on problems and solutions. They often deal with plants, animals, and real-world materials like wood, tools, and machinery. Many of the occupations require working outside, and do not involve a lot of paperwork or working closely with others.

- **Conventional** — Conventional occupations frequently involve following set procedures and routines. These occupations can include working with data and details more than with ideas. Usually there is a clear line of authority to follow.

back to top

Work Styles

5 of 14 displayed

- **Independence** — Job requires developing one's own ways of doing things, guiding oneself with little or no supervision, and depending on oneself to get things done.

- **Attention to Detail** — Job requires being careful about detail and thorough in completing work tasks.

- **Integrity** — Job requires being honest and ethical.

- **Dependability** — Job requires being reliable, responsible, and dependable, and fulfilling obligations.

- **Cooperation** — Job requires being pleasant with others on the job and displaying a good-natured, cooperative attitude.

back to top

Work Values

All 3 displayed

- **Relationships** — Occupations that satisfy this work value allow employees to provide service to others and work with co-workers in a friendly non-competitive environment. Corresponding needs are Co-workers, Moral Values and Social Service.

- **Support** — Occupations that satisfy this work value offer supportive management that stands behind employees. Corresponding needs are Company Policies, Supervision: Human Relations and Supervision: Technical.
**Independence** — Occupations that satisfy this work value allow employees to work on their own and make decisions. Corresponding needs are Creativity, Responsibility and Autonomy.

**Related Occupations**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Occupation</th>
<th>Bright Outlook</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>35-2014.00</td>
<td>Cooks, Restaurant</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>43-5053.00</td>
<td>Postal Service Mail Sorters, Processors, and Processing Machine Operators</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>51-5113.00</td>
<td>Print Binding and Finishing Workers</td>
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<tr>
<td>51-6041.00</td>
<td>Shoe and Leather Workers and Repairers</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>51-9192.00</td>
<td>Cleaning, Washing, and Metal Pickling Equipment Operators and Tenders</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Wages & Employment Trends**

Median wages (2014) $9.77 hourly, $20,320 annual

State wages

Employment (2014) 208,000 employees

Projected growth (2014-2024) Slower than average (2% to 4%)

Projected job openings (2014-2024) 33,600

Top industries (2014)

- Other Services (Except Public Administration)
- Health Care and Social Assistance
