

MOLD MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN [Level 1]

OVERVIEW OF THE JOB

Prime Responsibilities

Overview

- Assemble and disassemble molds.

Specific Responsibilities

- Cleans, assembles and disassembles new and/or refurbished molds.
- As directed, evaluates molds to determine root cause of molding issues.
- Checks mold functionality for air, water and hydraulic effectiveness.
- Reads bills of material, work orders, blueprints and specifications sheets, including 3D designs to locate and verify parts to assemble.
- Interprets tool mold component drawings.
- Performs in-process inspection of parts which include visual inspection and/or dimensional measurement for conformance to requirements on defined drawings, including, verifying dimensions, alignments, and clearances of finished parts.
- Proficient in the use of pneumatic air tools, micrometers, Vernier calipers, gauge block and dial test indicators, functional tools/jigs and hand-tools and power tools.
- Performs hand grinding, etching and cleaning of new and refurbished mold components.
- Uses hoist/crane to move materials, parts and assemblies.
- Responsible for simple in-press cleaning and lubrication of molds.
- Completes texture repairs and polishes, as directed.
- Performs general housekeeping/clean up in assigned work area.
- Is expected to report on relevant issues to Engineers and Management, both verbally and electronically.
- In addition to these tasks, a good Mold Assembler would have working knowledge of the following:
 - Electrical, hydraulic, cooling and pneumatic systems
 - Mold components and fit/function/assembly
 - Basic mold processing; injection and mold theory
 - Machining and tools
 - Commonly used materials and their machining characteristics

Working Conditions

A variety of manufacturing firms produces and maintains molds. Firms vary in size and their business strategies reflect the diversity of manufacturing and the wide variety of molds being used today.

No matter which type of shop you are employed in, safety is an important value you must practice at all times. You will be required to wear safety protective gear such as earplugs, boots and safety glasses.

It is a physical job; you will be on your feet all day. You may have to lift heavy materials during the day.

Often manufacturing environments are noisy and during the summer they may be hot if the facility is not air conditioned.

You will be busy all the time. The equipment you will be using is very expensive. Firms attempt to schedule work to keep this equipment in operation producing items as much as they can. This allows the firm to satisfy customer requirements and make a profit, thereby paying you and your fellow employees. It is therefore important to protect it from malfunction and undue wear at all times.

Videos of Molding Jobs, Machines and Molds

Below are YouTube videos of workplaces, machines, molds and that demonstrate most of points described above and provide a job preview for you:

1. Introduction to different types of mold processes – 6:08 min. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qn16JtE_vLc
2. Extrusion Molding (Aluminum – 4:08 min.) <https://youtu.be/76NcaTxFdE8>
3. Injection Molding Overview - 17 min. <https://youtu.be/xn2HgMjbKf4>

Will I like this job and be good at it?

If you can answer “Yes” to most of the following statements, then this job might be an excellent choice for you:

- I like making things.
- I am good at assembling things – using tools.
- I am good with details.
- I like getting my hands dirty.
- I like using my brain and thinking.
- I am good with math – addition, subtraction, etc.
- I enjoy working relatively independently.
- I want to have responsibility and be accountable for things I do.
- I don't shy away from physical activity.
- I am in good physical shape.
- I would rather be busy all the time than having periods of inactivity.
- I like being on my feet, doing stuff, rather than sitting at a desk.

What do I get out of this job?

The job pays reasonably well. Your starting wage will likely be between \$ 20.00 and \$ 22.00 per hour. At the end of the training program, you may receive a wage increase, assuming you meet the certification standards, or sometime during the first year. After two years, you could be earning between \$ 24 and \$ 26 per hour. You would also be receiving incentive or bonus income in addition to your wages, if the company has an incentive system in place. Incentive systems, in general, pay out to employees if the company is having a good year financially.

What else do I get?

This can be a positive, life-altering opportunity. Becoming a Mold Maintenance Technician can be an excellent decision for you. The job is interesting and pays reasonably well. This job is the stepping stone to a career in the mold sector. Over time, if you are interested, apply yourself to learn new skills, you could become a mold maker or designer. These jobs pay well over \$30 per hour. Jobs in the mold sector are in demand. Further these jobs are unlikely to be eliminated as manufacturing processes change and evolve. The long-term employment and stability it brings is a very good thing to have in a job.