



Careers in manufacturing:

plastics, rubber and cabling

Production workers

Plastics and composites production workers are specialist polymer products manufacturing workers.

- **Plastics fitter**
- **Plastics mould maker**
- **Cablemaker.**

Plastics and composites production occupations include:

- Production assistants
- Operators
- Senior operators and polymer or plastics technicians.

Plastics and composites production workers can specialise in:

- composites
- fabrication
- extrusion
- blow moulding
- injection moulding
- rotational moulding.

Plastics and composites production workers, depending on their level of training and experience, operate the machinery, and may supervise and control the processes that manufacture and/or finish plastic or composite products by injection moulding, extrusion, blow moulding, hand fabrication, hand lay-up, calendaring and other processes.

Plastics and composites production workers may:

- check machine settings and safety devices before their operation, set controls, start machines and load materials

- regulate the machine temperatures, pressures and speeds of operation of manually operated and semi-automatic equipment
- extract mouldings and extrusions, cut off waste material, and trim and finish moulded components in accordance with machine cycle and quality specifications
- fix, assemble or install moulded-in components
- form, fabricate or lay up sheet and thermosetting plastics materials
- control feeding devices for wire and cable coating
- control blending, compounding and drying equipment
- maintain production and quality assessment records
- coat moulds with fibreglass (a mixture of plastic resin, glass fibres and chemical hardeners) either by hand or by using special spray guns
- laminate fibreglass by smoothing it with rollers and brushes to remove air pockets before the mixture hardens
- use honeycomb, balsa or foam plastic when stiffening or flotation of a product is required, and to reduce its weight
- fit together various parts of the product by hand, using fibreglass, tape or putties as bonding agents
- shape and sand products before assembling.

Production workers

Plastics and composites production workers may work in one of the following industry areas:

- injection moulding
- pipe and profile extrusion
- blow moulding of plastic bottles
- film and sheet extrusion
- thermoforming and fabrication
- reinforced plastics (fibreglass) and composites
- vinyl calendaring
- laminating
- compounding and reclamation
- foam processing
- cable manufacturing.

Relevant qualifications:

- Certificate II in Polymer Processing
- Certificate III in Polymer Processing
- Certificate IV in Polymer Technology
- Diploma of Polymer Technology
- Advanced Diploma of Polymer Technology.

This information sheet has been produced with assistance from the Australian Government.

