

Sanitation Worker FAQs

Q: What are the job duties/responsibilities of a Sanitation Worker?

A: Under direct supervision, Sanitation Workers are required to operate various types of equipment involved in street cleaning, waste collection, recycling collection, snow removal, encumbrance removal, and waste disposal. The physical activities performed by Sanitation Workers include, but are not limited to, pulling, dragging, lifting and carrying heavy and large objects, bags of garbage, cans, containers, bulk items and throwing or dumping garbage/bulk items into a truck hopper or loading them onto a truck. Sanitation Workers are expected to work in all types of weather conditions and may be required to walk and/or stand for long periods.

Q: What are the benefits of being a Sanitation Worker?

A: Sanitation Workers provide a vital service to the City of New York by keeping our neighborhoods clean. Sanitation Workers receive a host of benefits for themselves and their families including medical, dental and eye-care coverage and a pension plan. The Sanitation Worker title also promotes to other supervisory and management positions in the Department of Sanitation.

Q: How can I become a Sanitation Worker?

A: You need to apply to take a written test. You can submit an application on the Online Application System (OASys) at www.nyc.gov/examsforjobs, or stop by one of the DCAS Computer-based Testing & Applications Centers to file for this examination online.

The centers will be open Monday through Saturday from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM:

Manhattan
2 Lafayette Street
17th Floor
New York, NY 10007

Brooklyn
210 Joralemon Street
4th Floor
Brooklyn, NY 11201

Q: When will the filing period for the written test take place?

A: The application filing period for the Sanitation Worker exam is October 1st -31st.

Q: When will the written test for Sanitation Worker be administered?

A: The exam will take place in February 2015. The specific test date is to be announced in the coming months.

Q: How much does it cost to apply for the written test?

A: The application fee of \$47.00 is due at the time an applicant files for the written test. The following forms of payment are acceptable: major credit card, bank card associated with a bank account, or a prepaid debit card with a credit card logo which you may purchase online or at various retail outlets.

If you choose to pay the application fee with a credit/debit/gift card, you will be charged a fee (2.49% of the payment amount). You may also submit a money order payable to DCAS (Exams) if you file at one of the DCAS Computer-based Testing & Applications Centers. Individuals who meet certain criteria may be eligible to have their application filing fees and physical/practical test fees waived. For more information about fee waivers, please refer to DCAS' full list of fee waiver FAQs on-line at:

<https://a856-eeexams.nyc.gov/OLEE/oasys/FAQFeeWaiver.aspx>

Q: How much does a Sanitation Worker earn?

A: The current minimum salary for Sanitation Worker is \$33,746 per year. Upon completion of 6 months of employment, the salary will increase to \$36,607. At the completion of 5 ½ years of employment, a Sanitation Worker's salary will increase to \$69,339 per year.

Q: What is the format of the exam?

A: The written test will be in a multiple-choice format and will be administered as a paper and pencil test in a classroom setting.

Q: What is the passing score for the written test?

A: The passing score for the test is 70%. Scores are ranked from highest to lowest and candidates are considered in score order.

Q: What abilities are being measured on this test?

A: The written test is designed to assess the extent to which candidates have certain abilities that tie directly to the performance of a Sanitation Worker. The test may include questions requiring the use of any of the following abilities:

Written Comprehension: The ability to read and understand written English text.

Problem Sensitivity: The ability to identify potentially challenging situations.

Information Ordering: The ability to take in information and carry out behavior in the correct order, based on that information.

Deductive Reasoning: The ability to use the information from a general rule and apply it to solve a specific problem or come up with a logical answer.

Spatial Orientation: The ability to apply a general sense of direction as a guide to finding a specific location, while being aware of your surroundings.

Visualization: The ability to mentally envision how shapes and objects would look after they have been rotated or unfolded, and use this to identify the object after the change has taken place.

Q. What happens after I take the written test and pass?

A: If you pass the written test, you will be scheduled to take the physical test in score order as vacancies occur. Candidates called to the physical test will be required to pay

an additional \$20.00 fee (such fee may also be waived for this portion of the exam – please refer to DCAS’ full list of fee waiver FAQs). The physical test consists of two events which are individually timed and completed in succession. Event 1 consists of dragging and emptying street corner baskets into a replica collection truck. Event 2 consists of carrying garbage between, over and around obstacles and placing them into a replica collection truck.

Q: Is there a minimum age requirement for the exam?

A: Yes, you must be at least 17 ½ years of age by the end of the application period to take this examination. You must be at least 21 years old to be appointed as a Sanitation Worker.

Q: I don’t live in New York City. Am I still eligible to take the written test?

A: Yes, you are eligible to take the written test. However, to be appointed as a Sanitation Worker, you must be a resident of the City of New York or of Nassau or Westchester Counties during the first five years of employment.

Q: I don’t have a New York State CDL Class A and/or B License. Am I still eligible to take the written test?

A: Yes, you are eligible to take the written test. However, by the date of appointment, you must have a valid New York State CDL Class A or B License with an “N” Tank Vehicles endorsement.

Q. How long do I have to wait to be hired from the list?

A: The amount of time varies and is contingent upon the hiring needs of the Department of Sanitation (DSNY).

Q: How many Sanitation Workers will DSNY expect to hire as a result of the Sanitation Worker Exam (Exam No. 5001)?

A: Historically, DSNY hires about 2,000 Sanitation Workers over the course of 4 years, for any given exam. However, the total number of Sanitation Workers who will be hired from this exam is solely based on the current hiring needs of DSNY.

Q: What promotion opportunities are available?

A: The next level for promotion is to Supervisor (Sanitation). In order to be eligible for promotion, you must have served permanently as a Sanitation Worker for two years.