

Backhoe operator

Did you have fun playing in the sandpit with toy diggers when you were young? Fancy playing in a bigger sandpit, with bigger machines...and being paid for it?

You might like to consider training to become a **backhoe operator**. This machine is basically an overgrown tractor, but the real skill is in the precision of using the front and rear buckets.

What might a backhoe operator's working day look like?

Each day will be different depending on the project you are working, typically your day may include:

- + Operating attachments to excavate, break and level earth, rock and other materials
- + Digging trenches on civil infrastructure or largescale commercial projects
- + Moving large amounts of earth, sand or gravel
- + Performing maintenance on the machinery
- + Performing safety checks before the machinery is used
- + Coordinating with other operators to perform the duties required
- + Interpreting signage on a construction site

To be a successful backhoe operator you should:

- + Have an awareness of safety issues
- + Have the ability to work as part of a team
- + Have a careful, methodical and accurate approach to work
- + Be able to listen to instructions carefully and perform them accurately
- + Be physically fit and enjoy working outdoors

Where does a backhoe operator work?

Civil construction workers mainly work outdoors on large infrastructure, construction servicing, road construction and maintenance, residential subdivision and bulk earthworks, foundation work, railway construction and maintenance, tunnel construction and pipe-laying.

What can the future hold?

If you're ambitious, willing to work hard and undertake further training, there are no limits to where a career as a machinery operator can take you.

You can be employed on large construction projects, become a site supervisor or even start your own company.

Fantastic! How do I get started?

If you're at school, you can enrol in a Certificate II Civil Construction qualification as part of your WACE.

For further information about Certificate II and III **traineeships** in the civil construction sector, find your nearest Apprenticeship Network Provider at www.australianapprenticeships.gov.au or call 13 38 73

For additional information on the civil construction sector contact the Civil Contractors Federation on (08) 9414 1486 or visit their website at civilcontractors.com



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