

**Chemical Technicians** work with chemists and chemical engineers, developing and using chemicals and related products and equipment. Their career opportunities are diverse, depending on where they work and their education, skills, and experience. **Chemical Technicians** operate standard laboratory equipment, set up apparatus for chemical reactions, and perform chemical tests and experiments. They also test for quality, performance, or composition of chemical compounds or materials. Other technicians act as troubleshooters, manage databases, monitor pollution levels by testing water, soil and air, or work in shipping to ensure that packaging of hazardous materials complies with regulations. **Chemical Technicians** work in laboratories to ensure that processes are carried out safely, cost-effectively, and according to the highest professional standards.

**Chemical Technician** careers have been changing and growing. For example, they might test packaging for design, integrity of materials, and environmental acceptability; assemble and operate new equipment to develop new products; monitor product quality; or develop new production techniques. Those who focus on basic research might produce compounds through complex organic synthesis. Because the chemical sciences encompass so many fields, **Chemical Technicians** often specialize in one industry, such as industrial chemicals, fuels, agricultural products, food processing, pharmaceuticals, paints, fuels, or metals.

**Chemical Technicians** within chemical plants are also referred to as **Process Technicians**. They may operate equipment, monitor plant processes and analyze plant materials. The hours of work usually follow the normal 5-day, 40-hour week except when processes or tests must be completed without interruption. Large industrial companies operating around-the-clock or research labs may employ technicians on more than one shift.

**Chemical Technicians** are a vital and growing part of the industrial work force at chemical, engineering, and oil companies; they are employed by federal, state, and local governments, including research laboratories and government science agencies.

#### Salary Information:

- **Chemical Technician for the Rochester, New York area:**  
\$38,700 Median Hourly Salary (Career One Stop, 2008)  
[\*Salary varies based on education/advanced degree, work-experience & setting/location]

#### Additional Information:

- American Chemical Society: [www.acs.org](http://www.acs.org)

