

# Sterile Processing Technician



## What do they do?

Sterile Processing Technicians are responsible for effectively and efficiently decontaminating, cleaning, sterilizing and reprocessing medical equipment. Equipment can include surgical instruments, medical supplies and other patient equipment used throughout the hospital and clinical areas.

## Where do they work?

Most Sterile Processing Technicians work in hospitals and surgical centers. Sterile Processing Technicians typically have a large space to work in that contains large machines for sterilizing the medical equipment.

## Pay:

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the average yearly income for a Sterile Processing Technician is \$32,260.



## Education:

A high school diploma is needed to become a Sterile Processing Technician. Sterile Processing Technicians go through on the job training to prepare for their job responsibilities.

Many employers prefer that employees are certified in sterile processing before being hired or shortly after working.

## Skills employers look for:

Employers look for specific skills when hiring Sterile Processing Technicians such as:

- Ability to follow instructions
- Basic mathematical skills
- Organizational skills
- Detail Oriented
- Self-Motivated; can complete duties in a timely manner

## Professional Association:

Sterile Processing Technicians can join the National Healthcare Workers Association:

<http://nationalhealthcareworkersassociation.com>



## Certification:

Though certification is not required to become a Sterile Processing Technician it is highly recommended. Information on the two most highly recommended certifications for Sterile Processing Technicians can be found below:

Certified Registered Central Service Technician

Website: [www.iahcsmm.org/certification-preparation/crcst-certification.html](http://www.iahcsmm.org/certification-preparation/crcst-certification.html)

Certified Sterile Processing and Distribution Technician

Website: [www.sterileprocessing.org/technician.htm](http://www.sterileprocessing.org/technician.htm)



## Job Responsibilities:

Sterile Processing Technicians are responsible for a variety of tasks on the job. Typically Sterile Processing Technicians go through job rotations and are exposed to all of the various tasks within the department.

- Decontamination of equipment
- Assembly of sterile equipment
- Sterilization and storage of cleaned equipment
- Inspection and maintenance of medical equipment
- Distribution of sterile equipment to hospital units/departments



## Job Outlook:

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment for Sterile Processing Technicians is expected to grow 17 percent between 2012-2022, which is faster than the average across all occupations.

Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, *Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2014-15 Edition*.  
[http://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes319093.htm#\(3\)](http://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes319093.htm#(3))

