



For more info on Sealed Air, check out sealedair.com

Sealed Air focuses on delivering packaging products that help businesses protect their goods during transit, improve sustainability, and reduce environmental impact.

Sealed Air's proven history of innovation drives change and sets industry standards. Optimised packaging means fewer resources, minimised product damage, and maximised speed within packing facilities world-wide.

Meet Akshay – a Plastic Extrusion Machine Operator at Sealed Air in Hamilton. Akshay turned his love for machines and problem-solving into an exciting, hands-on career at this global business!

Useful school subjects

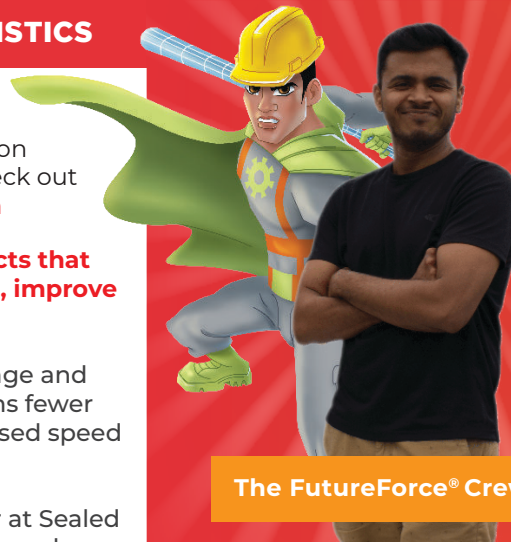
- Maths
- Physics
- Chemistry

Type of person

- Keen to learn
- Good listener
- Open to learning from others
- Problem Solver

To find out more about this sector, profiles of young people like you in the industry, and career tools and tips...

scan here



AKSHAY ANTONY
PLASTIC EXTRUSION MACHINE OPERATOR



The FutureForce® Crew sat down with Akshay to chat about his role...

TOP CAREER TIP

“TRY AS MANY THINGS OUT AS YOU CAN, FIND WHAT IS BEST FOR YOU. THIS MIGHT BE DIFFERENT TO WHAT YOUR FRIEND MIGHT BE DOING, BUT INSTEAD TRY TO WORK OUT WHAT IS BEST FOR YOU.”

WHAT DO YOU DO?

My typical day involves operating machinery to extrude plastics. At Sealed Air we make mainly make food plastics that are used for packaging products like cheese and milk powders. We also make courier envelopes for NZ Post.

I make sure the machines are running in a smooth manner. If there are any issues it is my job to trouble shoot these and sort it out ASAP! Our machines run 24/7 so anytime the machines stop can waste time and money. The ability to run the machine smoothly is the best option economically.

HOW DID YOU GET THIS JOB?

Once I completed my studies in engineering, I began researching Auckland and Waikato based engineering companies to see what was around. I came across this role at Sealed Air and applied for it and was selected from there.

WHAT DO YOU LOVE ABOUT YOUR JOB?

I really enjoy the chance to solve complex problems when there is a technical issue. Being able to rectify these issues keeps the job interesting. Some days the job can be easy, and then other days can be super challenging if things go wrong.

WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT WORKING AT SEALED AIR?

I really like my team. We are always willing to help each other out. If you see someone struggling and have some extra time on your hands you are always willing to assist where needed. Management will always be open to providing you with more chances to learn and help you grow your professional and personal skill set.

AKSHAY ANTONY
PLASTIC EXTRUSION MACHINE OPERATOR



TIPS & ADVICE

WHAT HAVE YOU LEARNT ON THE JOB?

I have taken it upon myself to re-learn a bit about chemistry to better understand the plastics. Along the way I have picked up how to use the different controls of the machines and understanding how to operate these.

In terms of personal skills, I have learnt:

- » To work in a team
- » How to help those around me
- » To feel comfortable asking questions
- » How to build professional connections
- » To be a reliable employee
- » Communication skills

WHAT CHALLENGES HAVE YOU HAD TO OVERCOME?

Brushing up on my chemistry knowledge, learning how polymers behave. I had to learn this by myself. I had to find time to learn this and take time to upskill myself on all the things I was working on.

WHERE WOULD YOU LIKE TO GO WITH YOUR CAREER?

I would like to lead projects, and eventually be a process engineer or project engineer. I am new to this position though, so I am just wanting to grow my knowledge and upskill myself for the time being.

WHAT SUBJECTS DO YOU THINK ARE IMPORTANT FOR THIS TYPE OF WORK?

There isn't a particular subject that you need to do but logical reasoning is a good skill to have. Subject wise maths, physics and chemistry are good to take. Maths and physics is key to understanding the mechanics of the machine, and chemistry is useful to understand the make-up of the plastics themselves.

WHAT IS SOMETHING YOU WISH YOU KNEW BEFORE YOU STARTED WORKING?

Try as many different things as you can because this will allow you to learn what you do and don't like and could open the doors to potential career pathways.

WHAT TYPE OF QUALITIES DOES SOMEONE NEED FOR THIS ROLE?

Someone who is aware of what's happening around them, a willingness to grow and open to learning from those around them. Although you are briefly trained, most of what you learn is on the job. Being keen to learn and understand the "what and why" something is happening is important.

