

# Wisconsin Forestry Career Profile

## Dry Kiln Operator



Photo courtesy of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

### High School Courses

- Mechanics
- Woodworking
- Welding
- Forestry
- Small Engines

### Education/Training

- High school diploma or equivalent
- On-the-job training
- Continuing education courses

### Responsibilities

- Monitor equipment and gauges
- Adjust kiln as necessary
- Read and produce orders
- Manage daily quotas
- Report malfunctions and issues
- Load and unload kiln

### Skills

- Understand industry
- Pay attention to detail
- Communicate effectively
- Work collaboratively and efficiently
- Problem solve

### Abilities/Personality

- Strong and able to lift 50+ pounds regularly
- Able to stand/move for 8+ hours
- Steady
- Dependable
- Cooperative

### Work Environment

Dry kiln operators work in and around lumber mills. While they are usually in a temperature-controlled environment, they may be required to enter hot kilns to measure moisture content. Kiln operators need to be comfortable using Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and able to follow regulations.

### Job Description

Dry kiln operators control the heating and ventilation factors in an industrial kiln. Operators need to create, review, and modify drying schedules based on lumber species and the initial moisture content of wood. In smaller companies, kiln operators may load and unload the kiln themselves. Operators must be able to read and understand technical language to fill orders.

### Salary Range

