

## Certified Water Specialist Exam Blueprint

The Certified Water Specialist (CWS) Exam consists of 150 multiple choice questions related to the tasks needed to correctly apply point-of-use and point-of-entry water treatment systems for residential use.

The tasks reflect the following domains:

Basic Water Knowledge	23% of exam
Water Problem Diagnosis	17% of exam
Treatment Technologies Applications	38% of exam
Installation	6% of exam
Service & Maintenance	4% of exam
Regulatory	11% of exam

## Study Materials

The exam assumes a level of proficiency that draws on both field experience and basic knowledge of point-of-use/point-of-entry water treatment. Use of the recommended study materials or completion of WQA's training courses does not guarantee success on the exam.

CWS candidates with less than 2 years of experience must complete, in full, three modules of the Instructor-Led Certified Water Specialist Training course described below before scheduling the exam.

### 1. WQA Online Knowledge Base

The articles found in the following WQA Online Knowledge Base categories are recommended.

[Understanding Water](#)

[Water Contaminants](#)

[Treatment Methods and Technologies](#)

[Designing Treatment Systems](#)

[Sizing Water Treatment Devices](#) (Note: the

topics addressed in the Hydrodynamic

Design subsection are not addressed on the

CWS exam)

[WQA Code of Ethics and Communicating with Customers](#)

[Product Performance Claims and Certification](#)

[Understanding the Law](#)

WQA members have complimentary access to the online Knowledge Base ([wqa.org/kb](http://wqa.org/kb)) and may use that resource as study material for the exam.

### 2. WQA Instructor-Led Certified Water Specialist Training course

The Certified Water Specialist Training course is provided as three instructor-led modules that include a combination of live training over zoom, elearning homework, and field practice assignments. Each module is approximately 14 weeks long.

The modules are:

Assessing Water Quality





Application of POU/POE Treatment for Aesthetic Contaminants  
Application of POU/POE Treatment for Drinking Water Contaminants

More information and upcoming training schedules are available at [wqa.org](http://wqa.org).

CWS exam candidates with 2+ years of experience do not have to complete the course in full and may purchase a three-month access to the course elearning content at a reduced fee for the purpose of review. Use the [CWS Exam registration form](#) to order the course for review.

3. Personnel who have completed the Certified Water Specialist Training course in full may request a one-time 90-day complimentary access to their learning path after registering for the exam. Access to the online Knowledge Base is included with the course. Please select *Complimentary Access* in the payment information section of the [CWS Exam registration form](#) to order.