

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

Exam Eligibility & Registration

Refer to the eligibility criteria listed for the CWS title through instructor-led training paths and the Accelerated paths to certification on WQA's Professional Certification webpage, wqa.org/profcert. All paths include registration for one exam session.

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.

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*

WQA Code of Ethics and Communicating
with Customers
Product Performance Claims and
Certification
Understanding the Law

*The topics addressed in the Hydrodynamic Design subsection are not addressed on the CWS exam.

WQA members have complimentary access to the online [Knowledge Base](#) 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. Refer to [WQA's Training page](#) and the [CWS training path](#) for information about the course.

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 contact us at education@wqa.org to request the access extension.

3. Self-study Materials

The elearning content from the WQA Certified Water Specialist course is available as a stand-alone purchase in the [Water Treatment Learning Center](#). Elearning activities serve as quizzes to highlight and reinforce learning of content in the Knowledge Base.

