

Mark Buckley

B.Sc. Wood Products Processing (2001)

“This is an exciting industry that combines leading-edge technology with renewable resources and environmental issues.”

Photo Not Available

Job Title: Maintenance Superintendent

Company: Western Forest Products Inc.

Location: Duncan, BC

Years in Occupation: 2

Work Environment: Variable; some days are spent entirely on the mill floor, and other days behind the desk.

Education: Bachelor of Arts in English Literature (University of British Columbia); Bachelor of Science in Wood Products Processing (University of British Columbia)

Hometown: North Delta, BC

After graduating from UBC with a B.A. in English Literature, Mark saw a Ministry of Forestry job posting on the UBC Career Services website. That summer, Mark ended up working as a forest firefighter and learned that he really enjoyed working outdoors. Around this time, he also heard about a new degree program being offered at UBC, the Bachelor of Science in Wood Products Processing. He liked what he heard and didn't hesitate to return to school to complete a second Bachelor's degree.

You could say the next five years changed Mark's life significantly. Not only did he switch gears in terms of his career path, he also ended up meeting his wife-to-be in the program. Jennifer Rice graduated from the program the same year as Mark, and she went on to complete a Master of Forestry. The couple just recently welcomed their first baby!

Key Responsibilities: As the Maintenance Superintendent, Mark has a lot of responsibility. He manages the entire work site, a task that includes everything from the finances down to the equipment. He is also responsible for monitoring the environmental impact of the site. Mark deals with both day-to-day issues, as well as more long-term concerns such as upgrading and improving equipment.

Skills Required: The key to doing this job is multi-tasking and being able to deal with people from all backgrounds. You need to have good organizational skills, as well as the ability to meet deadlines. Financial management skills are an asset, as is a good understanding of the industry. This job would be well-suited to someone who is self-motivated, enjoys challenges, and likes dealing with change.

Why He Loves His Job: Mark loves his job because not only does he work with an amazing group of people, but each day on the job brings forth new challenges and opportunities.

Co-op Work Terms: For his first four-month work term, Mark worked at Pallisar Furniture. He learned to perform production studies on the equipment, as well as how to make production improvements based

on this information. For his following four co-op terms, Mark worked at Stork Craft Manufacturing for a total of sixteen months. During that time, Mark was able to get involved in various ways within the company. In addition to developing joint design and testing different glues, Mark was involved in carrying out destructive testing on the cribs. He also learnt how to compare the results to those of the leading competitors.

Previous Employment: After graduation, Mark worked for Weyerhaeuser in New Westminster. He completed their Manufacturing Associate training program, through which he learnt how to run a sawmill, a planer mill, and a shipping department. He also trained as a Process Coordinator, where his main responsibility was to liaise between various departments. Mark later secured a position as Maintenance Supervisor with Weyerhaeuser. After two years, Mark moved to his current employer, Western Forest Products Ltd.

Future Prospects: There are tons of opportunities in this sector for people with a maintenance background. For example, a Maintenance Superintendent could later move on up to work as a Mill Manager or a Divisional Manager.

Advice For Prospective Students: Getting more education will only help you. Right now the industry is going through some necessary changes, but it will continue to thrive. This is an exciting industry because it combines leading edge technology, renewable resources, and environmental issues.

The best part is definitely working with people. Since this is a global industry, you are always meeting people from different walks of life.

Advice For Current Students: Take advantage of some of the great opportunities available to you through UBC. Join co-op, join social clubs and activities on campus, take part in Coconut, Storm the Wall, or other university-wide events. Enjoy it while you can!