

Materials Engineer

Even the most innovative design can't live up to its potential if it's not made out of the right stuff. As a materials engineer, your job might be to create shock-absorbent material for a marathon running shoe, produce a full-spectrum sun block that protects against skin cancer, or identify steel beams capable of bearing the tremendous weight of a bridge. The right materials can have revolutionary results! Materials engineers can work for almost any company or organization and work with almost any product out there; from military equipment to kitchen products to Thomas the Tank products. Experimenting with different materials is essential to the job.

Other examples of projects a materials engineer may be involved in:

- Invent clothing that repels mosquitoes
- Enhance the handling ability of skis and snowboards with more flexible materials
- Develop nano-sized polymers to help repair shattered bones
- Help burn victims heal faster with artificial skin grafts
- Create stretchable material for clothing that returns to its original shape



Biography – Elizabeth

Elizabeth tests products that are used in kitchens every day. She makes sure that Pyrex Bakeware, Corelle dishes, Corningware, and other brands are safe and reliable.

Why her work matters

“So many consumers buy and use our products every day, and they rely on the quality and good reputation of our brands. It's rewarding to see a product on the market and know that I made a positive contribution by helping to keep our products safe.”

Where she works

Elizabeth works at World Kitchen in Chicago, Illinois.

Education

B.S. in material science & engineering, University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona. She is currently pursuing her Masters of Engineering Management at Northwestern University, Chicago, Illinois.

Thomas the Tank engineer

At her previous job with toy company Learning Curve, Elizabeth helped engineer a variety of Thomas the Tank Engine models. “It was really enjoyable to collaborate with the toy designer and figure out if our design was something cost effective that we could actually produce.”

Advice

“Determination and focus are the keys to succeeding in engineering, and having hobbies, being athletic, and making new friends will help get you through any rough spots or stressful times. Always try to turn negatives into positives, and learn from your experiences.”