

# DAWN BUCK: CONSTRUCTION SUPERVISOR



There once was a girl who loved taking things apart and building them up again, from radios and video recorders to furniture. For as long as she could remember, Dawn always wanted to figure out how things worked and how to make them work even better.

Dawn's mother often took Dawn and her brother to jumble sales and they loved spending hours fixing broken items or turning one object into two. Her Nana would also buy her trainsets and Lego, instead of dolls, as Dawn had no interest in what grown-ups called 'girls' toys.

When Dawn was at school, she was the only girl in her technology and woodwork classes. Dawn didn't mind or think this was strange until her teachers told her that they weren't subjects for girls. Her teachers wanted her to build jewellery boxes and heart-shaped keyrings while the boys got to build chess tables and remote control cars. Dawn started to doubt herself and to question why she was different. What was wrong with liking to figure things out and to build things with her hands?

When Dawn was 16, she left school to become a hairdresser because that was what she'd been told girls do. She hated it and felt miserable. After a year she went to clean buses just so she could watch the buses being repaired. She then worked in retail helping with bicycle repairs and advising customers on what spare parts they needed for their cars. She was much happier using her hands and finding solutions to people's problems.

One day Dawn was given a chance opportunity to go for an interview with United Utilities, a company providing water and wastewater services to people in North West England. It was at that job that her true passion for solving problems and working with her hands was reignited. Before long Dawn started working onsite in construction and took part in lots of different projects, from helping to stop flooding to improving drinking water quality.

Dawn loved a good challenge and designing solutions and seeing a project through from start to finish. It gave her so much job satisfaction. She absolutely loved what she did and couldn't imagine doing anything else. She knew, without a doubt, it's what she was born to do.

Over the years Dawn worked her way up and learned everything she knows about engineering and water waste and clean water on the job. She felt alive again and put all her heart and soul into her job. She even went back to school to get some qualifications just to increase her knowledge and confidence more.

Dawn's only regret is that she allowed other people to deter her from following her dreams when she was a young girl. Dawn always knew what she wanted to do and believes that any girl can be an engineer if she wants to be and not to let the world of grownups put her off.

