



## Livia, BASF

Livia has been a member of the Construction team for over 10 years. She is a Quality Control Lab Technician that tests the chemical properties of polyurethane foams. She runs numerous tests on rigid foam samples to determine their physical properties.

### Tell us a little about yourself

I immigrated from Romania 17 years ago. Presently, I live in the Greater Toronto Area with my husband of 23 years and two teenage boys. I love walking with the family along the lake, watching the kids play basketball and vacationing with my close-knit friends.

### How did you get started in the industry?

I have a bachelor's degree in chemistry from Babes-Bolyai University in Romania. In my first job in Canada, I was hired to verify the silver and gold content of minerals. After that job, I moved to working for the City of Toronto Water doing testing more on the biochemistry side. While I was at the City, my husband saw a posting for BASF on a popular hiring site. I never imagined leaving the City but he encouraged me to submit my application. BASF is well-known at home so I decided to apply - and I got the job.

### What is your current role?

In my role as a Quality Control Technician, half of my day is usually spent checking the reactivity of resins made in production. Most of my focus is on

the spray systems. The other half of the day, I do the physical testing of foams submitted by external and internal customers, and the R&D chemists. I'm always working on something new and different.

### How have you seen the spray industry change over the years?

Throughout the past 10 years, I've seen the evolution of our products with the different versions. Our products are constantly improving every year. They are designed to be more environmentally friendly with the transition of technology. We are focused on Constant And Never ending Improvement or C.A.N.I.

### How have you seen the spray industry change for women?

More women have been joining the industry. Although it is very physically demanding, I believe modern women are quite ambitious and can take on any challenge.

### What challenges have you faced working in the industry?

My challenge has been to experience how the spray foams work in the field, and how the systems we manufacture and test on-site are used by the end



customers.

### What have you learned over the years in your role?

Everyday, I am learning more and becoming more confident in my skills. It's important to keep up-to-date with the industry changes by reading about the different standards. Feedback or updates from the chemists are really important. I've also learned communication is key for working together and achieving great results.

### Would you have advice for women interested in the industry?

Don't be afraid to be curious and ambitious! There's a lot of exciting things to discover in the spray foam industry and a lot of potential for growth.