

**What does it  
take to become a  
Bricklayer?**



Bricklayers lay bricks, concrete blocks and tiles to construct or repair buildings, walls, arches, chimneys or paved areas. However, if you think all a bricklayer does is lay brick upon brick and plasters walls – then think again! There's more to being a bricklayer than meets the eye. In fact, a single bricklaying project calls upon a variety of skills, including, reading and working from plans and specifications; sealing foundations with damp-resistant materials; spreading layers of mortar to serve as a base and binder for bricks in rows, designs or shapes; and spreading mortar between joints; repairing and maintaining clay bricks, cement blocks and related structures; operating brick cutting machines; and erecting scaffolding.

### Skills and Knowledge

Bricklayers need to have knowledge of bricklaying methods, materials and tools; the ability to interpret building plans and drawings; skill in laying bricks, blocks or tiles; basic carpentry and maths skills; knowledge of decorating styles; and knowledge of health and safety requirements. Bricklayers who are self-employed also need small business skills. Bricklayers need to be accurate, motivated, able to work to strict deadlines, able to work well independently and as part of a team, comfortable working at heights and in confined spaces, and good communicators.

### Training

People who have experience in industrial, interior or landscape design, construction site laboring, and any other work in the building construction industry should have the best opportunities to be selected

for bricklaying training programmes. Training programmes at registered institutions typically cover both theoretical and practical components. Assessment may include written, oral or practical assessment methods.

### Working Conditions

Bricklayers often work long hours, including early mornings, evenings and weekends; work outside on construction sites and inside buildings, in conditions that may be noisy and dirty; and travel locally to building sites. Some bricklayers work at great heights. Bricklayers must be fit and healthy, with strong arms and a strong back, as they are often bending and lifting. If they have skin conditions that are affected by concrete mix, they need to be able to manage this.

### Job Prospects

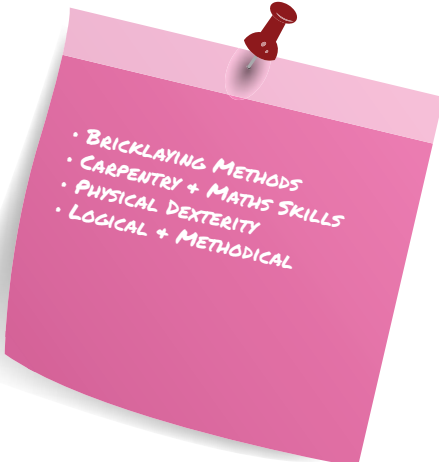
Chances of getting a job as a bricklayer are good due to a current construction boom. However, like many building jobs, this role can be affected by economic conditions and a downturn in the economy can lower the demand for bricklayers. Many graduates become building contractors, running their own businesses and planning, supervising and working on the construction and alteration of buildings. Others opt for specialisation such as stonemasons, who work with stone to construct or renovate buildings, fittings, walls and paving, or to create monuments in cemeteries; and concrete workers who make, pour, spread and finish, reinforce and cut




concrete for buildings, stairs, footpaths, driveways and bridges.

- 
- CONSTRUCTION
  - BRICKS, BLOCKS + TILES
  - REPAIR + RESTORE
  - PLAN INTERPRETATION

- 
- CONSTRUCTION EXPERIENCE
  - THEORY + PRACTICE
  - LIFELONG LEARNING
  - CAREER PROGRESSION

- 
- BRICKLAYING METHODS
  - CARPENTRY + MATHS SKILLS
  - PHYSICAL DEXTERITY
  - LOGICAL + METHODICAL

Bricklayers are the bosses of the construction industry. We employ everyone, be it an electrician or a plumber. It is really the leading occupation in the construction field.



- 
- OUTDOORS
  - NOISY + DIRTY
  - CONFINED SPACES + HEIGHTS
  - SAFETY CONSCIOUS

- 
- CONSTRUCTION BOOM
  - HOUSING, CIVIL + MINING SECTORS
  - SELF-EMPLOYMENT
  - SIMILAR SPECIALISED OCCUPATIONS