

Career Profile: Bricklayer

Bricklaying is a skilled trade and an important part of the building process, as bricks often form the structural base of some buildings. A Bricklayer may work with a variety of materials to create different effects when working on building projects.

They use masonry materials such as bricks, concrete, mortar, lintels, cement or granite blocks and can build, maintain and repair a variety of structures including walls, chimneys, decorative arches and fireplaces in housing and commercial projects.

What would my working day look like?

Some of the tasks you may complete are:

- ▶ Mixing mortar using a cement mixer and shovel
- ▶ Using tools to cut bricks and checking your work using lines and levels
- ▶ Preparing and laying brick, stone, structure tiles, marble, concrete block and other masonry materials to build or repair walls, partitions, fireplaces and other structures
- ▶ Clearing your worksite and keeping it clean whilst following occupational health and safety requirements
- ▶ Estimate the quantity of materials required by measuring surfaces or reviewing a work order
- ▶ Read and interpret drawings and blueprints and calculate the materials required
- ▶ Measure from an established starting point and construct corners first, using a plumb line and mason's level to ensure each layer will be level from corner to corner
- ▶ Spread and apply mortar to accurately lay bricks into position
- ▶ Remove excess mortar after the brick (or other masonry material) is in position
- ▶ Use a hammer and chisel or masonry saw to cut bricks to fit as required

I might enjoy this job if:

- ▶ I enjoy manual and physical work
- ▶ I enjoy being creative and have an eye for design
- ▶ I like variety and accuracy in my work
- ▶ I am good at maths, design and technology and manual studies such as woodwork
- ▶ I like working and being outdoors

Working conditions and hours

You will usually work outside in the fresh air and in all types of weather conditions, travelling between sites once each job is complete. At times you may be required to work at heights and in tight spaces and will use measuring tools, trowels, hammers, shovels and mixers to lay and cut bricks.

You may work full time (generally 44+ hours per week) and are expected to start work early in the morning and work some weekends depending on how much work is available.

How do I become a Bricklayer?

If you're still at school or you are post-secondary schooling and don't have any experience in the industry, enrol in the Certificate II in Building and Construction-Trades pathway.

Otherwise, to become a tradesperson and get a trade certificate you'll need to complete a Certificate III in Bricklaying / Blocklaying apprenticeship, which takes 36-48 months to complete.

Future pathways and opportunities

Future career development may involve working as a sub-contractor or having your own business.

With further study your career could lead you to become a Site Supervisor, Construction Manager, Registered Builder or even a Building Inspector.

Average Pay

\$1,000-\$2,070 per week

depending on your experience and hours worked.

(Source: Job Outlook)

What skills and personal qualities do I need?

- ▶ Good numeracy and literacy skills to calculate and measure materials and read and interpret plans
- ▶ Good accuracy skills and attention to detail
- ▶ Take pride in your work
- ▶ Be interested in practical work and have good manual skills
- ▶ Be a team player
- ▶ Good communication skills
- ▶ Be physically fit to meet the physical demands of the job
- ▶ Be reliable and show initiative



Next Steps

Further information can be found at:

- ▶ Jobs and Skills WA – www.jobsandskills.wa.gov.au
- ▶ Australian Apprenticeship Pathways – www.aapathways.com.au
- ▶ Australian Apprenticeship Support Network Providers – www.australianapprenticeships.gov.au