



# JOB of the Week



**Job name: Bricklayer**

## Job description:

Bricklayers lay bricks, pre-cut stone and concrete blocks in mortar. They construct, extend and repair domestic and commercial buildings, and other structures such as foundations, walls, chimneys or decorative masonry work. Bricklaying offers a real sense of achievement. At the end of a project, you'll see the results and be able to say, 'I built that'.

## Tasks you will undertake in the job:

As a bricklayer, you will be responsible for one of the most important elements of construction within the housing industry. Duties include laying bricks, measuring out areas, and repairing or maintaining existing structures.

The job role of a bricklayer includes the following duties:

- Laying bricks
- Applying or removing mortar with a trowel
- Working accurately from detailed plans and specifications
- Sealing foundations with damp-resistant materials
- Using spirit levels and plumb lines to check building alignment
- Using hand tools, power tools and brick-cutting machines
- Constructing arches and ornamental brickwork
- Repairing and maintaining building blocks
- Measuring out build areas and setting out the first rows of bricks and damp course
- Working outdoors on construction sites, in all weathers and at height.

## Skills required for this job (core competencies):

Communication	Resilience	Organisation	Teamwork
Problem Solving	Initiative	Creativity	Digital literacy

## Sectors in which Bricklayers would normally work:

In your day-to-day tasks you could: measure work areas and set out the first rows of bricks or blocks; mix mortar by hand or with a mechanical mixer; use a trowel to lay bricks and mortar; shape and trim bricks using hammers, chisels and power tools; check that rows are straight using a spirit level, laser level or plumb line

Working environment - You could work on a construction site. Your working environment may be physically demanding, outdoors in all weathers, at height and you'll travel often. You may need to wear protective clothing.

**Salary:** Bricklayers are typically paid a starting wage of £17 000, this increases with experience, skilled Bricklayers can expect to earn approximately £42 000 per year.



**Working hours:** Working hours are usually around 42 - 44 hours per week. You may need to work some evenings and weekends.

### Qualifications to become a Bricklayer:

Your local college or training provider may offer courses such as a Level 1 Certificate in Construction Skills, Level 2 Diploma in Bricklaying or Level 2 Diploma in Trowel Occupations. You'll need: 2 or fewer GCSEs at grades 3 to 1 (D to G), or equivalent (level 1 course); 2 or more GCSEs at grades 9 to 3 (A\* to D), or equivalent (level 2 course).

An apprenticeship with a construction firm is a good way into the industry. Apprenticeships are open to anyone over the age of 16. As an apprentice, you will be fully employed by your company and expected to work a minimum of 30 hours a week. Your time will be split between on-the-job experience and a college or training provider.

An intermediate bricklaying apprenticeship offers two years of on-the-job training and time with a training provider. For this, you'll need GCSEs (including English and maths), or equivalent qualifications.

### Essential skills you need to show: You'll need to have:

- knowledge of building and construction
- to be thorough and pay attention to detail
- the ability to work well with others
- to be flexible and open to change
- patience and the ability to remain calm in stressful situations
- the ability to work well with your hands
- physical skills like strength, balance and coordination
- the ability to organise your time and workload
- to be able to carry out basic tasks on a computer or hand-held device

**This job in the future:** The workforce is projected to decline by -2%, losing 1 400 jobs; in the same period, 50.4% of the workforce is likely to retire, creating 35 000 job opportunities.

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