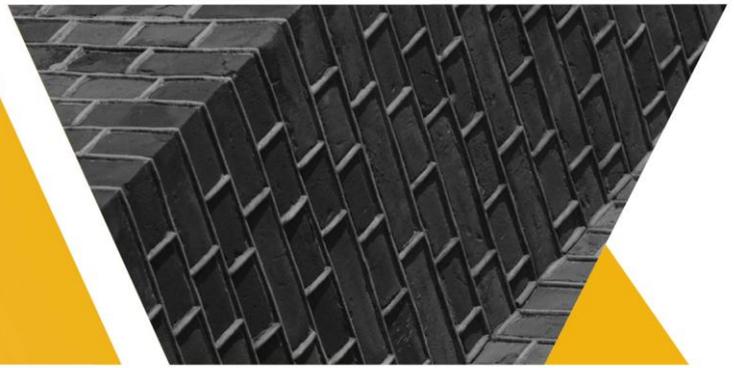


Bricklayer



Description Bricklayers lay bricks, pre-cut stone, concrete blocks and other types of building blocks in mortar to construct and repair walls, foundations, partitions, arches and other structures.

Bricklayers work outdoors and may have to work at heights or in tunnels and shafts. They usually work in teams and may be employed by bricklaying subcontractors or building and construction companies.. Bricklayers may have some contact with the public.

Typical duties

- work from plans and specifications;
- seal foundations with damp-resistant materials;
- spread layers of mortar to serve as a base and binder for bricks, remove excess mortar, and check perpendicular and horizontal alignment;
- use various tools and brick-cutting machines to cut and shape bricks;
- construct arches and ornamental brickwork;
- repair and maintain clay bricks, cement blocks/bricks and related structures;
- erect scaffolding (subject to licence requirements in some states).

Personal Requirements

- enjoy practical work;
- good hand-eye coordination;
- technical aptitude in order to follow plans;
- able to work at heights and outdoors;
- physically fit and healthy.

Qualification Certificate III in General Construction (Bricklaying/Blocklaying)

Entry pathway Entry to this occupation is generally through an apprenticeship which includes on- and off-the-job training. This will generally require successful completion of Year 10 or equivalent.

Completion of a pre-apprenticeship course can decrease the length of time of the apprenticeship.

Trade qualifications are sought after but are not essential, and about half of all bricklayers hold no qualifications. Qualified tradespeople are less likely to be affected by downturns in demand than unqualified bricklayers.



Job prospects

Most work is in housing and commercial construction and most bricklayers are either self-employed or work for bricklaying sub-contractors. A few are employed in the brickmaking and steel industries building furnaces. Employment prospects for this occupation are largely determined by the level of activity in the building construction industry at large.

By undertaking further studies experienced tradespeople may be promoted to supervisory positions. They can also advance to other positions within the building industry such as clerk of works, building inspector, building technician or registered builder.

Specialisation

- Arch Builder
- Blocklayer
- Chimney Builder
- Retort Setter (Bricklaying)
- Small numbers of bricklayers may specialise in refractory work, where they build and line kilns and industrial furnaces; or in the repair of brickwork damaged by salt or damp.

Related Jobs

By undertaking further studies at TAFE, experienced tradespeople can also advance to positions within the building industry such as clerk of works, building inspector, building technician or registered builder

Further information

- Australian Brick & Blocklaying Training Foundation (ABBTF) [www.becomeabricklayer.com.au/]
- Be Constructive [www.beconstructive.com.au/]
- Group Training Australia [www.gtaltd.com.au/]

Revised January 2013