

Bricklayer

Bricklayers lay bricks, concrete blocks and building blocks in mortar to construct and repair internal and external walls, partitions, arches and other structures.

Bricklayers may perform the following tasks:

- work from plans and specifications
- seal foundations with damp-resistant materials
- build in door and window frames
- spread layers of mortar to serve as a base and binder for bricks, and remove excess mortar
- check vertical and horizontal alignment of bricks and blocks
- 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 and territories).

Specialisations:

A small number 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.

Bricklayers mainly work outdoors and may have to work at heights. In specialised work they may operate in tunnels and shafts. They usually work in teams. Bricklayers work mainly for builders and may have some contact with the public.

Personal Requirements:

- enjoy practical work
- good hand-eye coordination
- aptitude for technical activities
- able to interpret and follow plans
- able to cope with the physical demands of the job.

Related Jobs:

- Building Contractor
- Carpenter
- Concreteer
- Construction Worker
- Plasterer
- Roofer
- Stonemason

Education and Training:

To become a bricklayer you usually have to complete an apprenticeship in Bricklaying/Blocklaying. Entry requirements may vary, but employers generally require Year 10. Ask your career adviser about the possibility of starting some of this training in school.

Additional Information:

In Victoria, bricklayers must either be accredited as, or work under the supervision of, a registered building practitioner. Contact the Victorian Building Authority (www.vba.vic.gov.au) for more information.

Workers in the construction industry must undergo safety induction training and be issued with a Construction Induction Card (CIC). In Victoria, training is conducted by Registered Training

Organisations authorised by WorkSafe Victoria.

Once you are employed, you may be able to develop, and have recognised, additional skills under the Construction, Plumbing and Services Training Package that will expand your career opportunities within this industry.

Related Courses:

While the following courses are related to this occupation, they may not necessarily lead directly to employment, nor provide the most direct pathway to the occupation. Courses which provide preliminary or informal training, as well as those which provide additional job skills following initial qualifications may also be listed.

*Course is offered by more than one institution. Click link for details.

- Certificate II in Building and Construction *
- Certificate II in Building and Construction - Bricklaying *
- Certificate III in Bricklaying/Blocklaying *

Employment Opportunities:

Most work is in housing and commercial construction on a self-employed, subcontracted basis. Supply and demand can change quickly due to market conditions within the building industry. Qualified tradespeople are less likely to be affected by downturns in demand than unqualified bricklayers.

Employment may be sought with bricklaying contractors and general building contractors. 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 building inspector, building estimator, project manager or registered builder.

For Further Information:

Australian Brick and Blocklaying Training Foundation
1300 304 477
abbtf@abbtf.com.au
www.becomeabricklayer.com.au

Construction and Property Services Industry Skills Council
(02) 6253 0002
info@cpsisc.com.au
www.cpsisc.com.au

Housing Industry Association (VIC)
(03) 9280 8200
vic_enquiry@hia.com.au
http://hia.com.au

Master Builders Association of Victoria
(03) 9411 4555
mbassist@mbav.com.au
www.mbav.com.au

Victorian WorkCover Authority
1300 852 562
licensing@worksafe.vic.gov.au
www.vwa.vic.gov.au