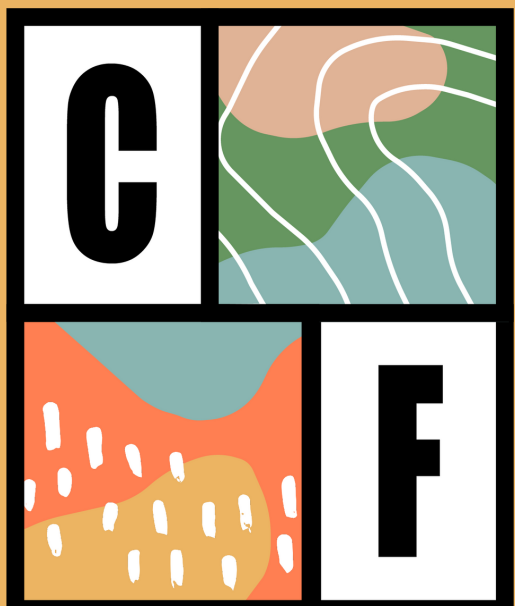




# BRICK LAYER



# BRICK LAYER

## A Day in the Life...

**8.00am - 9.00am**

Arriving at the work site; collecting materials including mortar, brick, stone, etc.

**9.00am - 10.00am**

Measuring the area; checking plans; speaking to the foreperson about layout and plans; putting chalk lines on the ground where the wall is to be built

**10.00am - 12.00pm**

Beginning to build the wall; laying down bricks, applying mortar, laying another layer of bricks which is staggered

**12.00pm - 1.00pm**

Lunch break

**1.00pm - 3.00pm**

Continuing to lay bricks on the wall and making sure it is straight and level; mixing more mortar when needed; cleaning odd excess mortar between bricks

**3.00pm - 4.00pm**

Cutting bricks to fit special places in the wall. Fitting these newly cut bricks into places they were cut for.

**4.00pm - 5.00pm**

Clean up all the tools and mortar; putting everything away for the next day

# INTERVIEW WITH A BRICK LAYER

## What made you get into Bricklaying?

I am interested in construction and I had planned to do an apprenticeship after I finished school. I prefer practical learning, and took an interest in hands-on projects like helping my dad tile the bathroom from a young age.

## Did you know a lot about Bricklaying before you started your apprenticeship?

My dad and uncle work in the trade and I would often help them, which made me more confident and helped me settle into my apprenticeship better, but there are apprentices with no experience who have settled in just as well - people are always there to help you, and if you want to learn you will be just fine.

## What skills do you think are important for a Bricklayer?

You will need to be able to follow plans and work with accuracy and attention to detail, so that the walls you build not only look good but are also structurally safe. You need to work well in a team: bricklayers normally work in groups, so good communication is essential. Working under pressure is also important: there may be times where other trades people are waiting for you to finish your job before they can start theirs.

# INTERVIEW WITH A BRICK LAYER

## **What are the biggest challenges in your job?**

I would say the winter months can be a challenge. A lot of my friends work in offices, where it is nice and warm, but I will be on a cold building site. Also, bricklaying is a very physical job and there will be times when you go home exhausted.

## **What is the best thing about Bricklaying?**

The satisfaction you get when completing a job. Knowing that your team has built a family home is just an amazing feeling. Going to work knowing that you will be learning something new everyday is a great feeling and I am looking forward to becoming a fully qualified bricklayer in the future

## **What advice can you give someone looking at an apprenticeship in Bricklaying?**

It's important to do your research and make sure this is the right trade for you. Make sure you are happy with outdoor work and don't mind getting wet. Approach local construction companies to find out if they are taking on apprentices, and if you know anyone working in construction, get as much information from them as you can.

# BRICK LAYER

## How to become a Brickie:

### College Course:

Level 1 Certificate in Construction Skills  
Level 2 Diploma in Bricklaying  
Level 2 Diploma in Trowel Occupations

### Apprenticeships:

Open to anyone over the age of 16, 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 college or training provider.

Although some options will list qualification requirements, many employers are more interested in people who are enthusiastic, willing to learn and able to follow instructions. However, you may need a Construction Skills Certification Scheme (CSCS) card to allow you to work on construction sites.