

# BRICKLAYING

## Bricklayer

Do you like working with your hands? Are you physically fit? Could you work with precision tools? Do you have an eye for line, colour and proportion? Do you enjoy travel? Are you creative? Then, bricklaying could be the career for you!



## What the work is like

Bricklayers install and repair structures using brick, concrete block insulation and other materials. You could be installing fire bricks in commercial and industrial furnaces and incinerators. You could also be working with acid tile and acid brick in pulp mills.

Bricklayers are employed by construction companies and bricklaying contractors, or they may be self-employed.

Bricklayers work in the new home building and renovation, heavy industrial, and institutional and commercial construction sectors.



## Your duties

As a bricklayer, your duties may include:

- Laying bricks, stone or similar materials to build residential/commercial chimneys and fireplaces, patios, walls or walkways
- Laying firebricks to line industrial chimneys and smokestacks
- Cutting and trimming bricks using hand and power tools
- Lining or relining furnaces and boilers using acid-resistant bricks
- Restoring, cleaning or painting existing brick structures
- Reading and interpreting sketches and blueprints



## Work conditions

The standard work week for bricklayers is 40 hours (8 hours a day, 5 days a week). As with many careers in construction, there are peak periods that will require you to work overtime. The number of additional hours you work each week depends on the construction sector and region you work in, and will vary from one job to the next.

As a bricklayer, you will usually work outdoors, often on scaffolding. Your work will be physically demanding, and you may be required to travel to get to various work sites. On many jobs you will work closely with other construction professionals as part of a team.

As with all careers in the construction industry, safety is the top priority. Bricklayers are trained to work safely, and wear special equipment to protect themselves from injury.

## Building your career

With experience and additional training you can progress to more senior positions such as foreman, bricklaying estimator or inspector. You can also become self-employed and start your own contracting business.

As with most careers in the construction industry, your skills are portable. If you want to move, you can take your skills with you.

## More information:

Gauteng Master Builders Association

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