



Career of the week

Bricklayer

Bricklayers build houses, repair walls and chimneys and refurbish decorative stonework. They also work on restoration projects.

Average salary (a year): £17,000 (starter) to £40,000 (experienced)

Typical hours (a week): 42 to 44 a week (between 8am and 6pm, could be away from home)

You can get into this job through:

College

You could take a college course, for example:

- Level 1 Certificate in Construction Skills
- Level 2 Diploma in Bricklaying
- Level 2 Diploma in Trowel Occupations
- T Level in On Site Construction

Entry requirements

You may need:

- 2 or fewer GCSEs at grades 3 to 1 (D to G), or equivalent, for a level 1 course
- 2 or more GCSEs at grades 9 to 3 (A* to D), or equivalent, for a level 2 course
- 4 or 5 GCSEs at grades 9-4 (A* to C), or equivalent, including English and maths for a T level

Apprenticeship

You can do a:

- Bricklaying Level 2 Intermediate Apprenticeship
- Craft Bricklaying Level 3 Advanced Apprenticeship.

These usually take between 2 and 3 years to complete. You'll do on-the-job training and spend time with a college or training provider.

Entry requirements

You may need:

- some GCSEs, including English and maths, for an intermediate apprenticeship
- 5 GCSEs at grades 9-4 (A* to C), or equivalent, including English and maths, for an advanced apprenticeship

Work

You could start as a construction site labourer with a bricklaying 'gang' and take training on the job to become a bricklayer.

More information

Registration

You'll need a Construction Skills Certification (CSCS) card or equivalent to train and work on a construction site.

Further information

You can find out more about becoming a bricklayer from [Go Construct](#) and [House Building Careers](#)

Skills and knowledge

You'll need:

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

Day-to-day tasks

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 dusty, physically demanding, outdoors in all weathers, at height and you'll travel often
- You may need to wear protective clothing.

Career progression

You could specialise in a particular type of bricklaying like heritage work or stonemasonry.

You could become self-employed and set up your own business.

With experience, you could become a construction site supervisor or move into related areas like estimating, training or teaching apprenticeships or students in a further education college.