



Suffolk Joint
Construction
Committee

Bricklayer

Bricklayers build and repair walls, chimney stacks, tunnel linings and decorative stonework. They might also refurbish brickwork and masonry on restoration projects. If you enjoy doing practical things and you are interested in construction, this could be the perfect job for you.

THE ROLE

To become a bricklayer, you will need to be able to read plans. You'll also need to be able to work in a well organised way. You may not need formal qualifications to become a bricklayer, but employers usually want people who have some on-site experience. Some building companies may want you to have GCSEs in subjects like maths and English.

OPPORTUNITIES

You could find work with building contractors and local authorities. You could also set up your own business. You could work as a sub-contractor for a building company or contractor, who would supply the materials.

With experience, you could progress to site supervisor and clerk of works, or move into related areas like estimating and construction management. With further training, you could work as a bricklaying instructor at a training centre or college.

SALARY EXPECTATIONS

A bricklaying labourer can earn up to £15,000 a year

Qualified bricklayers can earn between £16,000 and £23,000 a year

Experienced bricklayers, including instructors, can earn up to £30,000 a year

Overtime and various allowances can add to your income

Self-employed bricklayers set their own pay rates

CAREER PROGRESSION

**BRICKLAYING
APPRENTICE**

BRICKLAYER

GANGER

**GENERAL
FOREMAN**

ENTRY ROUTE

You do not need formal qualifications to become a bricklayer, but employers usually want people who have some on-site experience. If you have not worked in construction before, you could find a job as a labourer to get site experience. Once you are working, your employer may be willing to offer you training in bricklaying.

You may be able to get into this job through an Apprenticeship scheme with a building company.

Another option is to take a college course in bricklaying. This would teach you some of the skills needed for the job, but employers may still want you to have some site experience. If you live in Suffolk, your training could be carried out at Easton & Otley College.

COURSES INCLUDE:

- Level 1 Award/Certificate in Basic Construction Skills (Bricklaying)
- Level 1 Certificate in Construction Crafts (Bricklaying)
- Level 1 Certificate in Construction and Building (Brickwork Skills)
- Level 2 Diploma in Bricklaying

TYPICAL TASKS FOR A BRICKLAYER:

- Measuring the work area and setting out the first rows of bricks (courses) and the damp course
- Mixing mortar by hand or with a mechanical mixer
- Laying the bricks on top of each other and applying the mortar with a trowel
- Shaping and trimming bricks using hammers, chisels and power tools
- Checking that courses are straight using water or laser spirit levels/plumb lines

On larger jobs, your group (gang) would work on a particular section of a building alongside other bricklaying gangs. You may also be able to specialise in stonemasonry work.

For more information on becoming a bricklayer visit:

**www.goconstruct.org
www.citb.co.uk
or talk to your local college**

Your career journey starts here!

