

What is a

# BRICKLAYER?

Bricklayers prepare, lay brick and other masonry units to construct and repair structures such as walls, partitions, fireplaces and chimneys. They also lay or install fire brick or castable materials on commercial or industrial projects.

## BRICKLAYERS

- Interpret drawings and blueprints and calculate the materials required
- Measure from an established starting point and construct corners first, using a plumb line and mason's level to ensure each course (layer) will be level from corner to corner
- Spread mortar over the base or previous course (layer), spread more mortar on the end of each brick to be laid and lay the bricks into position
- Remove excess mortar after the brick (or other masonry material) is in position
- Use a hammer and chisel or a masonry saw to cut bricks to fit, as required
- Bricklayers must know the properties of various mortars and other bonding materials, and how to handle different types of masonry units



**Trowel Trades Training  
Association**

# TRAINING TO BECOME A BRICKLAYER

## APPRENTICESHIP TRAINING



The term of apprenticeship for a bricklayer is 4 years (four 12-month periods) including a minimum of 5000 hours of on-the-job and technical training.

An applicant who previously completed courses of study or work experience related to the Bricklayers trade or holds a related journeyman certificate and has the employer's recommendation, may qualify for credit that could reduce the terms of apprenticeship.

A person who has previous training or work experience in the trade and wants to determine their level of skill and knowledge for entry or advanced standing in an apprenticeship program may apply for a Prior Learning Assessment.

## SKILLS & ABILITIES

The work is most rewarding for those who enjoy working with their hands on a variety of projects, which sometimes require creativity.

To be successful in their trade, bricklayers need:

- The strength and stamina required to work with heavy tools and materials weighing between 11 and 25 kilograms
- Manual dexterity and a good sense of balance
- The ability to get along well with co-workers
- An eye for colour, line and proportion