



NAMIBIA TRAINING AUTHORITY

BRICKLAYING & PLASTERING

a. Job Duties

Bricklayers and Plasterers are responsible for building structures such as walls, partitions, arches, fireplaces, chimneys, and others. They use materials such as solid bricks, hollow concrete blocks, structural tiles, natural and artificial stone, and prefabricated masonry panels. Some install and repair firebrick linings in industrial kilns and furnaces. When bricklayers begin a project, they first study the blueprints and then determine the brick layout by placing them in “dry course,” a process that involves no mortar. They must plan the layout so that, if multiple layers of brick are used, none of the joints overlap. Then they mix and spread mortar, a task that takes time to master.

Bricklayers use a variety of tools, such as trowels, jointers, hammers, rules, chisels, squares, and mallets. Bricklayers at the journey level can handle any type of masonry work and usually work in small groups, which are directed by a supervisor. When masonry construction must be reinforced to resist stress such as earthquakes and architectural loads, bricklayers insert steel bars between two vertical walls of bricks and pour cement into the space between the walls to bond the masonry units to the steel.



b. Related Occupations

- Stonemason
- Concrete Finisher
- Tile Setter
- Patio Installer
- Stonecutter

c. Skills and Personal Characteristics

- Enjoy practical hands-on work
- Good physical condition
- Able to recognize colours, patterns, lines and proportions
- Able to work independently and on a team
- Enjoy working methodically and accurately
- Good manual dexterity and hand/eye coordination
- Able to read technical drawings and specifications
- Good spoken communication skills
- Good problem solving skills
- Good basic mathematical and measurement skills



For further information contact:

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