Practical Brick Laying

A Basic Guide for Namibian Learners

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Name : _____

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Introduction

Bricklaying is an important skill in construction. It involves arranging bricks in patterns using mortar to build strong structures. This manual will guide you through the basics of bricklaying in an easy-to-understand way.

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1. Safety Procedures

Before starting bricklaying, follow these safety rules:

- Wear protective gear (gloves, goggles, and a dust mask).
- Handle tools carefully to prevent injury.
- Keep your work area clean to avoid accidents.
- Lift bricks properly to avoid back strain.
- Work in a well-ventilated space when mixing mortar.

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2. Accurate Measuring

Accurate measuring prior actually starting the brick laying, ensures strong and well-aligned walls.

- Use a tape measure and a ruler.
- Mark guidelines with chalk or string.
- Double-check measurements before cutting bricks or laying them down.

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3. Mortar Mixing

Mortar holds bricks together. To mix mortar:

1. Wear gloves and a mask.
2. Mix cement, sand, and water in a 1:3:1 ratio.
3. Stir until it forms a smooth, thick paste.
4. Use only enough mortar for the work session, as it dries quickly.

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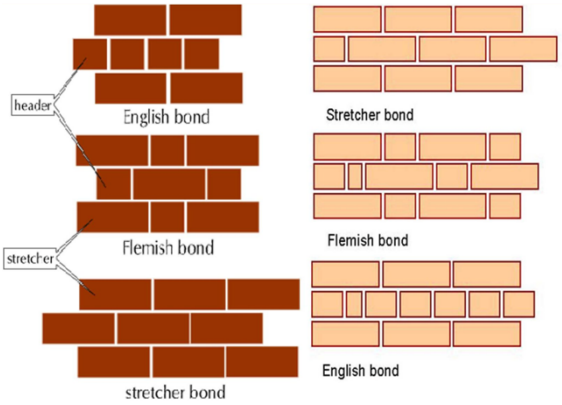
4. Brick Handling

- Carry bricks carefully to prevent dropping and breaking.
- Store bricks in a dry, stable pile.
- Wet bricks slightly before use to improve mortar adhesion.

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5. Different Bond Patterns

Bond patterns determine the strength and look of a wall. Here are a few common ones:



Stretcher Bond – Bricks are laid in a straight line, used for simple walls.

Header Bond – Short ends of bricks face outward, used for strong walls.

English Bond – Alternating layers of stretcher and header bonds.

Flemish Bond – Alternating stretchers and headers in each row.

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6. Cutting and Shaping Bricks



Sometimes, you need to cut bricks to fit. Follow these steps:

- Mark the cutting line with chalk.
- Use a bolster chisel and hammer to score the line.(Alternatively, you could use a chipping hammer to create a well marked chiseled line.)
- Strike firmly to break the brick cleanly.



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7. Construction and Building Plans

- Read and understand simple blueprints before starting.
- Measure and mark where bricks should go.
- Follow instructions step by step to avoid mistakes.
- Ask for guidance if something is unclear.

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8. Working as a Team

Bricklaying is easier when working together.

- Communicate clearly with teammates.
- Assign tasks (measuring, mixing mortar, placing bricks).
- Help each other lift heavy materials.
- Respect each other's work.

Memory Quiz – test your knowledge

Choose the correct answer for each question.

1. What should you wear for safety while bricklaying?

A) Sandals and shorts
B) Gloves, goggles, and a dust mask
C) A hat and sunglasses

2. Why is accurate measuring important?

A) It helps bricks look neat
B) It saves money
C) It ensures strong and well-aligned walls

3. What is mortar used for?

A) Coloring bricks
B) Holding bricks together
C) Making bricks heavier

4. Which is a common bond pattern?

A) Zigzag bond
B) Stretcher bond
C) Spiral bond

5. How do you cut a brick properly?

A) Hit it randomly with a hammer
B) Mark it, score it, then break it with a chisel
C) Use scissors