Mortar trades are the group of related declared trades in the Building and Construction industry that comprise of the following skilled occupations:

- Bricklayers/Block layers
- Tile layers
- Wall and Ceiling Fixers
- Solid Plasterers
- Painters and Decorators

Working in domestic, commercial and industrial installation, these tradespersons have the ability to be self-employed as subcontractors, or may be employed as part of a team.

Bricklayers will be first on the site and work outdoors, whereas the other trades generally will commence their work once the walls and roof are in place.

The buoyancy of the building industry and the significant demand for housing in the South West has created excellent employment prospects for qualified tradespeople offering not only challenging but also highly rewarding careers.
The scope of mortar trades

The scope of mortar trades offers a rich diversity of occupations within the Building and Construction industry.

Bricklayers prepare and lay brick, stone, structure tiles, and marble, concrete block to build walls, partitions, fireplaces, stairs and other structures. In preparation for the workplace, skills including carrying out measurement and calculations, appropriate tool selection and use as well as reading and interpreting plans form an integral part of the course.

Tile layers cover and decorate walls, floors and other surfaces using ceramic, porcelain, mosaics, marble and quarry tile, slate stone, terrazzo or granite.

Wall and Ceiling Fixers fit suspended ceilings and decorative plasterboard/plaster glass partitions, acoustic tiles and composite wall linings as well as special ceilings needing suspension systems.

Plasterers select, mix and apply gypsum, cement or acrylic mixtures to exterior and interior walls to produce plain or decorative surfaces.

Painter and Decorators apply a variety of finishes to internal and external walls, ceilings and other surfaces, and may also do a variety of specialised work.

Working in domestic, commercial and industrial installation, these tradespersons have the ability to be self-employed as subcontractors, or may be employed as part of a team.

Personal attributes that will enhance your chances of success in this career include:

- manual dexterity
- desire to do a precise and thorough job
- sense of balance
- ability to work at heights
- ability to solve problems by experimenting
- able to follow procedures

What mortar trades qualifications offer you

**Bricklaying:** This qualification will provide you with the practical skills and knowledge to enable you to erect and dismantle scaffolding, prepare areas for laying bricks/blocks, carry out basic setting out and lay wall and corner bricks and blocks.

**Tiling:** This qualification will provide you with the practical skills and knowledge that enable you to read plans, take measurements, prepare surfaces, concrete surfaces, lay wall and floor tiles and tile corners.

**Wall and Ceiling Fixing:** This qualification will provide you with the practical skills and knowledge to apply and fix internal wall ceiling linings of homes and commercial buildings. You will also learn skills to install, apply and finish plasterboard, fibre cement sheeting, pre cast fibrous plaster sheets and mouldings, partitions and suspended ceiling systems.

**Plasterer:** This qualification will provide you with the practical skills and knowledge to apply decorative and protective coverings of plaster, cement or similar materials internally and externally in homes and commercial buildings. You will learn skills that enable you to prepare surfaces, concrete various surfaces, plaster and apply render. You will also learn how to use scaffolding and organise your work.

**Painter and Decorator:** This qualification will provide you with the practical skills and knowledge to paint and decorate a variety of surfaces internally and externally in homes and commercial buildings. You will also learn skills in various paint techniques, how to use scaffolding and how to organise your work.

Employment opportunities

As a tradesperson you will have the opportunity to become an estimator, scheduler or building supervisor.

Entry requirements

- Communication skills

Entry into mortar trades is through a pre-apprenticeship or apprenticeship. The minimum entry requirement is Year 10 completion.

The pre-apprenticeship is six months full time study at South West Regional College of TAFE and includes work experience. Once indentured as an apprentice you will attend TAFE part time.

Further study options

You may study at South West Regional College of TAFE to achieve the Certificate IV in Building and the Diploma of Building or Builders Registration to enhance your career prospects.

Further information

Contact our Information and Career Advisory Officers on 1800 621 445 or (08) 9780 7070

Email: courseinfo@bunbury.training.wa.gov.au

Website: www.swrc.wa.edu.au