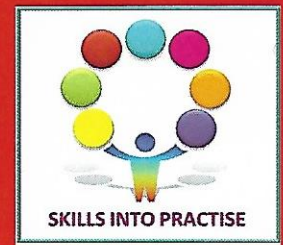


Constructing a Brick Wall



Instructions

Materials

- Bricks,
- soft building sand,
- plasticizer (washing up liquid)
- potable water, (Clean and impurity free)

Tools

- Bricking trowel
- pointing trowel,
- hawk,
- jointing iron
- spirit level,
- club hammer
- 100mm bolster chisel.
- soft brush
- shovel
- mixing bath
- a clean bucket.

- You will need a flat, dry suitable area to build your wall, preferably under cover to keep your materials and your wall dry. Bricks must be kept dry otherwise they may cause the new mortar to run and smear the bricks due to the additional water content they're holding.
- Select and stack bricks required as per instruction. Remember if facing bricks they should be laid with the face side on view when you are constructing your wall so check for damage first.
- Mix up sand and water with the additive to provide a slump free mix. Do not be over enthusiastic with the mixing as you don't want to add too much air to the mix, which can weaken it.
- Your tutor will tell you when you have the right consistency. Be careful not to add too much water especially if you have used all your sand, your mix will be unusable if too wet and will stain the face of the bricks.
- Use a piece of flat sheet timber, ideally a metre sq to provide a spot board for your mortar, this should be next to your wall to allow easy access and you can take from here with your trowel.
- Don't forget to work out which end you want to start from. Your wall is quite small and requires only basic skill so it is sometimes easier to start from either left or right depending on your predominant hand.
- Using your bricking trowel pick up a (slug) a section of mortar in length from tip to the widest part of the trowel and about 75mm wide. Place this with a wrist flick horizontally across, in a straight line. Work the mortar with the trowel to make a furrow as per photo, approximately 10mm in depth at the sides. When the brick is placed it will allow for adjustment by using the air gap you have provided.
- Select a brick with fingers and thumb and proceed to lay to the mortar bed.(Check which way up the brick should go, often there is an indentation, called a frog which should face up. Not all bricks have this though) Check with a spirit level that you have laid it flat. Any adjustments are to be done with the edge of the trowel and light finger and thumb adjustment. If laid correctly then minimal adjustment will be needed.
- Repeat the process as above but with the addition of providing a vertical "perp" bond, achieved by buttering the brick end. This is done by picking up a small section of mortar with the tip of the trowel and then pasting it on to the end of the brick. This when butted up to the next will flatten and create a bond.