

Workplace Hazards in Bricklaying

This fact sheet is for students undertaking work experience programs, and for their host employers. It can be used as a tool to assist with task planning, and to develop appropriate induction, training and supervision to minimise any risk to students while they are 'at work'.

Students must be given instruction, and must be supervised at all times. Consideration must always be given to hazards when allocating tasks. If any risk exists, students must NOT undertake the activity.

Hazard	Possible Harmful Effects	Possible Employer Action to Prevent Injury / Illness	Preventative Action Students Can Take
Powered tools and non-powered tools including brick saw, rotating saw, angle grinder, electric mixer	Contact with electricity Amputation or laceration Eye or face injury Musculoskeletal disorders caused by equipment vibration	Students must NOT operate powered tools <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide instruction in safe use of hand tools 	Students must NOT operate powered tools <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use hand tools carefully, according to your instructions
Working at heights	Falls from heights, potential for fatality or serious injury Collapse of structure – falls, crushing	Students must NOT work at heights where there is any risk of a fall	Students must NOT work at heights where there is any risk of a fall
Mobile plant including mobile platform	Falls from heights, potential for fatality or serious injury Manual handling injuries when erecting platform	Students must NOT operate mobile platforms	Students must NOT operate mobile platforms
Unlevelled terrain	Falls Cuts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Place appropriate safety signs Require appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) including footwear 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Observe safety signs Wear PPE including safety footwear
Cement products and mortar	Dermatitis Allergic reactions Vapour inhalation Mortar splashes in eyes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide Material Safety Data Sheet) MSDS for hazardous substances Provide appropriate PPE Provide first aid kit and emergency eye wash facility 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read MSDS and follow safe working instructions Use PPE provided (e.g. overalls, goggles, gloves, dust mask or respirator, safety shoes and helmet)
Manual handling (bending, reaching, stretching, pulling, lifting, repetitive motions, awkward posture)	Musculoskeletal disorders including sprains and strains	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Document safe work procedures Provide mechanical aids Provide training in safe manual handling techniques Encourage team lifts where appropriate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use mechanical aids provided Seek help when you think a team lift is required Exercise: warm up/stretch before starting work, and cool down/stretch at end of the shift or working day
Noise	Long-term exposure to excessive noise can lead to hearing loss	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain powered tools to reduce noise Limit exposure to excessive noise Provide appropriate PPE 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use PPE (hearing protection) provided
Overhead obstructions, electrical cable conduits	Accidental contact with electrical cable could result in electric shock or electrocution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Document and follow safe work procedures Provide appropriate warning signs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Observe warning signs Report any concerns
Enclosed areas (e.g. basements) with insufficient lighting and/or lack of adequate ventilation	Slips, trips and falls Breathing difficulties Collapse of structures - crushing	Students must NOT enter enclosed areas if they may be exposed to any risk	Students must NOT enter enclosed areas if they may be exposed to any risk
Hot weather conditions	Heat rashes, heat cramps, heat stress, dehydration, sunburn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide regular rest breaks Re-schedule work if extreme weather conditions present risk 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dress appropriately for the conditions Take scheduled breaks
Sexual harassment, work place bullying	Emotional stress, fear and anxiety, physical illness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish work place policy Provide staff briefings or training 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report any concerns immediately

