

Safer manual handling for bricklayers

Lifting, carrying or putting down objects in the wrong way can cause injury.

Bricklayers are a high-risk group for these injuries, called musculoskeletal disorders (MSDs).

These tips can help your employees work safely on site.

10 tips for manual handling



1. Plan ahead

Create a plan for the job to avoid double handling of materials and awkward access points. Try and have brick packs delivered early and close to where they are being used.



2. Identify manual handling tasks

Identify manual handling tasks early. Think about the best way to eliminate or reduce the risk of injury before starting these tasks.



3. Choose smarter tools and materials

Choose lightweight and ergonomic tools and materials. Lighten your tool belt as much as possible.



4. Mix up your tasks

Try alternating tasks throughout the day to mix up physical positions if you can. Try to avoid being in awkward positions for too long. Job rotation throughout the day can help with this.



5. Get work up off the ground

Use a raised surface or portable bench for tasks where you can. Raise mortar boards to a comfortable height to avoid bending.



6. Limit overhead work

Avoid working with your arms above your head if you can. Use ladders, work platforms and scaffolding to get your body closer to your work.



7. Use a trolley

Use a trolley to move materials around site instead of carrying them. Use motorised barrows and pack trollies to move bricks around site. This will reduce the risk of injuries.



8. Take breaks and stretch

Regularly rest, stretch and straighten up if you're working in awkward positions.



9. Use equipment and mechanical aids

Use equipment and mechanical aids, like lifting devices, where you can. Brick elevators and material hoists can help move bricks and reduce manual handling.



10. Review and revise control strategies

Keep talking about manual handling risks and what you have to do to eliminate or reduce them. If an injury occurs, review and revise your control measures. This will help prevent it happening again.



More information about manual handling

► worksafe.vic.gov.au/hazardous-manual-handling



► worksafe.vic.gov.au/construction

