



A good bricklayer carefully plans their work prior to laying. This involves:

- Carefully reading **ALL** building consent documents and familiarising themselves with any standards cited in the documents before starting
- Checking that the substrate has been properly prepared and sealed where required
- Calculating how many bricks are going to be required (and ensuring that factors such as mortar thickness are taken into account)
- Checking the bricks supplied are correct as per the building consent and contract
- Checking that there are no obvious issues / defects with the brick pallets provided
- Checking that all pallets display the same batch number
- Identifying what cuts may be required

Bricks should be laid to a straight line which generally involves running a string line at both ends of the wall. Bricks should be buttered to form perpend (“perps”).

NZS 4210:2001 sets out the following tolerances for brick veneers walls:

ITEM	TOLERANCE
Deviation from vertical within a storey	10 mm per 3 m of height
Deviation from vertical in total height of bldg.	20 mm
Relative vertical displacement between masonry courses.	2 mm on nominated fair face (one side only) 5 mm on structural face
Deviation from line in plan: (a) In any length up to 10 m (b) In any length over 10 m	5 mm 10 mm total
Average thickness of bed joint, cross joint or perpend joint.	+/- 3 mm on thickness specified

BRICK BLENDING

Bricks are a natural product that are subject to colour variance between batches. ‘Blending’ is the process used to vary brick pallets as they are laid as a means of avoiding any unwanted patterns caused by a variance.

Master Brick & Blocklayers recommends that bricklayers select bricks and blend vertically from at least three pallets, in order to achieve an adequate colour mix.

A bricklayer should also regularly check the veneer while laying from a viewing distance of 6.1m for obvious pockets of colour forming, that may be unacceptable.