

Build with blocks

— tutor notes

What students will learn

When they have finished this module, students should be able to:

- Work out the size of a job and how many blocks they need
- Work out how to fit the blocks together
- Keep blocks level, square and plumb
- Mix mortar
- Build a wall using blocks and mortar

Things you need before you start:

Information

You will need ideas and a specification for a concrete block project or job for the students to work on.

- What type of job will the blocks be used for?
- What materials are needed?
- What do they cost?

You also need to find out local regulations and requirements for:

- Blockwork
- Reinforcing
- Foundations

Materials

Materials for a project for students.

- Mortar, blocks and water

Tools or equipment

Students will need tools and equipment for the project:

- Measuring and marking tools
- Builders string line
- Spirit level
- Bucket
- Trowel
- Shovel
- Finishing tool — jointer
- Hose/water can
- Club hammer and bolster — or a power concrete saw

Course resources

Video player. Course Video.

Concrete project

The activities in this module require the students to actually plan and build with concrete blocks.

You need to provide your students with a block work project (or projects) to work on so they can apply the skills they have learned. Ideally, the project should be a real, useful project rather than just a small practice wall that is of no lasting use.

Students should work together in small groups to plan and construct the projects.

Suitable projects could include:

Blocks: a low boundary wall (include at least one corner), the base for a water tank, others.

You may be able to combine this with the concreting project and build onto the foundation laid in that project.

Look out for any suitable project in your area — it needs to involve the students in all the stages of preparation, building and finishing, but not be too large or require engineering plans or complex steel reinforcing.

The module:

The workbook sections for this module are:

- **Design and plan blocks**
- **How to fit blocks together**
- **Laying blocks with mortar**

Copies of the workbook sections are included in your manual here as well as in the Student Workbook.

You need to work through each section with the students, talking about each step and showing the students how to do it.

Remember: The workbooks are **not** designed to be used by the students learning on their own.