

Brickwork: How To Repair Loose Bricks

Time was when a loose and removable brick was a sort of home vault behind which one's life possessions could be hidden. But today, we have bank and safe-deposit boxes, and a loose brick is nothing but a nuisance. The job takes a little time, but any person can reset single bricks or even an entire course of bricks with hardly any effort.

Utensils

Cold chisel
Hammer
Garden hose
Water bucket or deep pan
Mixing pan
Small cement trowel or gardening trowel or 2" 1/2-inch spackle knife
Spirit Level, 18" inches long
Burlap cloth or canvas

Ingredients

Dry mortar mix, color to match
Water

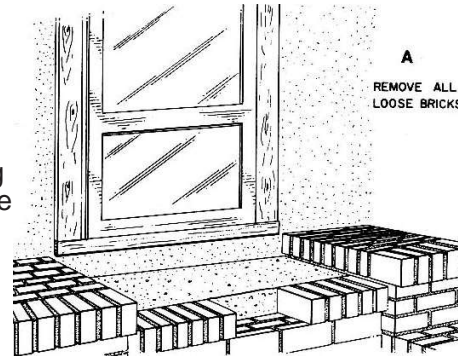


Figure 97A.
How To Remove Loose Bricks

Approximate Time: 60 Minutes, Small Job

1. Remove all loose bricks (Fig. 97A).
2. Remove old mortar that has adhered to bricks with hammer and chisel.
3. Chisel brick beds clean of old mortar.
4. Place bricks in water bucket and let stand for a few hours.
5. Before mixing new mortar, wet down brick beds with garden hose.
6. Mix mortar in pan, adding small quantities of water until the mortar becomes plastic but very thick. The drier the mix the better.
7. Remove bricks from water and shake off excess water.
8. With trowel, lay small amount of mortar into brick bed (Fig. 97B). Do not spread.
9. "Butter" edges of brick with mortar.
10. Place brick into position and tap down on it gently with trowel handle until mortar overflows under the pressure (Fig. 97C). Make sure that newly bedded brick is even with other bricks.

11. Clean away excess mortar, making sure none falls on lower brickwork.
12. Repeat procedure for all bricks, including top course, checking periodically for level.
13. Place full water bucket on top course of bricks to prevent unwanted movement during hardening period.
14. After several hours, the handle of the trowel or a pointing tool, or a pipe may be used to smooth out mortar. Mortar should be slightly recessed from brick face, not flush.
15. Remove bucket from top course of bricks.
16. After a full day of hardening, the brickwork may be cleaned with water. If any excess mortar has hardened on bricks, remove it carefully with hammer and chisel.

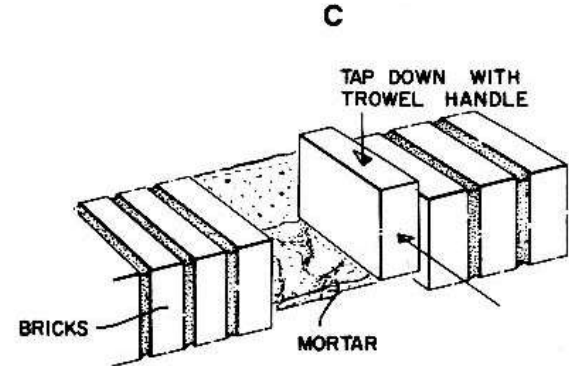
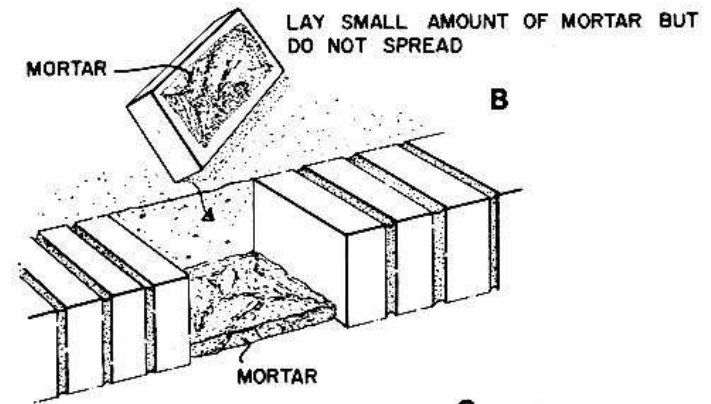


Figure 97.
How To Lay New Brick