Bricks may be cut with any of the following tools:

- Brick Trowel
- Brick Hammer
- Club Hammer and Bolster or Cold Chisel
- Power Saws/Grinders

Midland Brick recommends saw cutting for best results.

**CAUTION:** When performing any cutting, suitable eye protection must be worn.

**Brick Trowel**

This may be used for rough cutting of bricks. The two wedges of the brick are scored in the required position with the trowel and the brick is then cut by giving it a sharp blow between the two nicks. This method of cutting bricks is used only when the bricks are the softer type, as a good trowel is liable to be damaged if used for cutting hard bricks.

**Club Hammer & Bolster**

These are used for accurately cutting bricks as shown below. The method adopted is to mark the line of cut on all the faces of the brick, the first cut is usually on the shortest side and the final cut on the longest side.

**Power Saws**

Accurate trimming can be carried out using a masonry saw. Trimming may be required to achieve a desired shape and size, to work around any obstructions or to form a particular pattern. It is mainly used for laying pavers.

If a need exists to accurately cut bricks or pavers the recommended method is to use a wet process. That is, an appropriate saw fitted with water lubrication and dust suppressor.

When cutting pavers please ensure that the product is fully wetted (soaked with water), to reduce the chance of discolouration from cutting slurry entering the product surface. **Similarly, ensure all slurry is washed from any cut product before laying and make sure slurry does not fall onto any product already laid,** as this can be very hard to clean off. Cutting of pavers to less than 25% of the whole paver size should be avoided.

If the need exists to carry out dry cutting, dust will be generated. Dust from brick cutting may contain respirable particles which may also include harmful silica dust. Respiratory protection must be worn.

For dry cutting a dust extraction or vacuum unit is required. This will help to eliminate the dust generated from dry cutting. Dust extraction for dry cutting is outlined on the following page.
Hints and Tips for Cutting Bricks

Vacuum Units
Vacuum-cleaner units must comply with Australian Standard AS3544-1988 (Industrial Vacuum Cleaners for Particulates Hazardous to Health). Filler bags must have sufficient dust holding capacity for the job. Brick dust may be harmful. Respirable dust levels above 5mg/m3 and inspirable dust above 10mg/m3 require the use of an approved dust mask. These levels can only be determined by monitoring equipment, therefore appropriate respiratory protection is essential.

When carrying out dry cutting, an approved dust extraction unit of the type described above must be used. In addition an approved respirator should also be used. Respirators should comply with Australian Standard AS1716-2003 (Respiratory Protective Devices) and be used in association with AS1715-1994 (Selection, Use and Maintenance of Respiratory Protective Devices).

In all cases approved eye protection should be worn, and if appropriate suitable gloves.

Extraction Units
Extraction capacity will depend on the design of the extraction unit. The blade should be fully cowled with a spring loaded extension designed to encompass the entire cutting edge. A minimum extraction rate of 16 cubic metres per second (m3/s) is required per square metre of cowl open face area.

The sole plate width should be a minimum of 50mm and the leading edge should be upturned.

For more information about Midland Brick
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