

Making Mud Bricks

Step-By-Step Instructions

These instructions will help you to make mud bricks. You can experiment with the ingredients until you find the perfect balance. If it's too wet, the brick will not hold its shape; if it's too dry, the brick will crumble apart.

You can also experiment with the size and shape of your brick. Try egg cartons or ice cube trays for smaller bricks. Cut off the bottom of a plastic milk carton to make a larger brick. Or, build your own brick mould using cardboard or wood.

Step 1: Collect the ingredients to make your 'mud'.



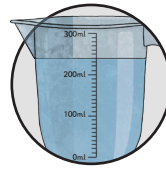
soil/dirt

Dig soil or use compost (the more clay, the better).



straw

Straw or dried grass, chopped into different lengths.



water

Experiment with different amounts - gloopy, not runny.



sand

Sand will help hold the mixture together.

You will also need a **mould** - try an **ice cube tray**, **seed tray**, **egg carton** or **the bottom of a plastic bottle**. You could also make your own mould using wood or card.



Step 2: Mix the ingredients together well, adding water just a little at a time. Remember to experiment with different combinations to find the right balance for the strongest brick.

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Step 3: Once you are happy with the consistency, press the mixture into your mould, making sure you press down hard to remove any air bubbles. Remember, to hold its shape, the mud mixture should not be runny.

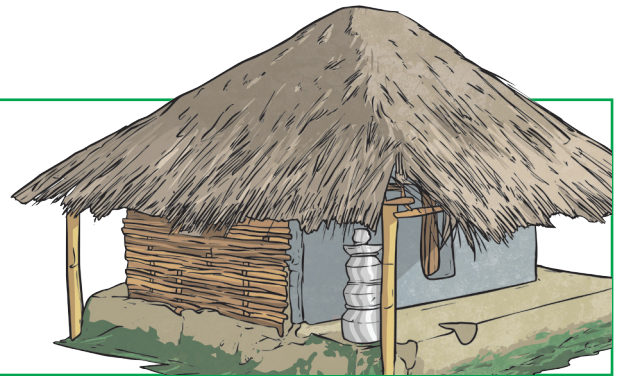


Step 4: You need to leave your mud mixture, in the mould, in a sunny spot for up to two weeks. After this time, turn out your brick. It may need a little extra drying time.

Once dry, your bricks are ready for building.

Which mixture created the strongest brick?

What design will you choose for your mud hut?



- Building a home from mud bricks is a method used around the world, in the past and today.
- It makes homes quickly, using the materials found in the surrounding environment and is cheap.
- Mud bricks offer natural insulation making a home that is cool in summer and warm in winter.
- If made properly, mud bricks are extremely strong and have even survived earthquakes!

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