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Part V. Introduction to Masonry Repairs

Sunlight, rain, wind, heat, and cold are all agents of erosion. And time, which waiteth for no man, will lay waste to your bricks and concrete in its course. It's a fact and a problem that must be dealt with by the homeowner. We cannot, unfortunately, prescribe the ingredients for a perfect brick wall. Even the wondrous Netherlands dikes have trouble. You all remember the Dutch boy and his famous finger of fate?

Fortunately, one or two or even a half dozen or so loose bricks on the facing of your home, or on your porch or stoop, will not bring down your house. Of that we can assure you. But, like the song says, "if two and two and fifty make a million..." then things can be tough. Before that happens, look carefully at your walls and periodically check for loose or broken bricks and replace them immediately. And watch those concrete walls for unsightly and potentially dangerous cracks.

Masonry work is fun. There is no question about it. And what's more fun is all the money you'll be saving by doing it yourself. Have you any idea what a bricklayer charges these days?

The illustrations in this section will show you what beautiful masonry is all about. Check your brick walls against the ones shown and see if you can identify the bond style of your home. For that matter, look around at your neighbors' homes, and look at old buildings wherever you go. You'll be pleased at your ability to differentiate between the variety of bonds in existence.

The items below represent an adequate array of equipment and material to handle all but major jobs. If you have a really serious problem, do not hesitate to call in a person who can handle it quickly and expertly.

- Pointing tools, sizes as necessary
- Cold chisel
- Hammer
- Wooden float trowel
- Cement trowel
- Smooth steel trowel, 12" inches long
- Garden hose
- Mixing pan
- Steel water bucket
- Mortar mix color and amount to meet your needs
- Cement mixes of various types for different jobs
- Burlap on canvas
- Several pieces of 2 by 4 lumber, 3 to 4 feet long

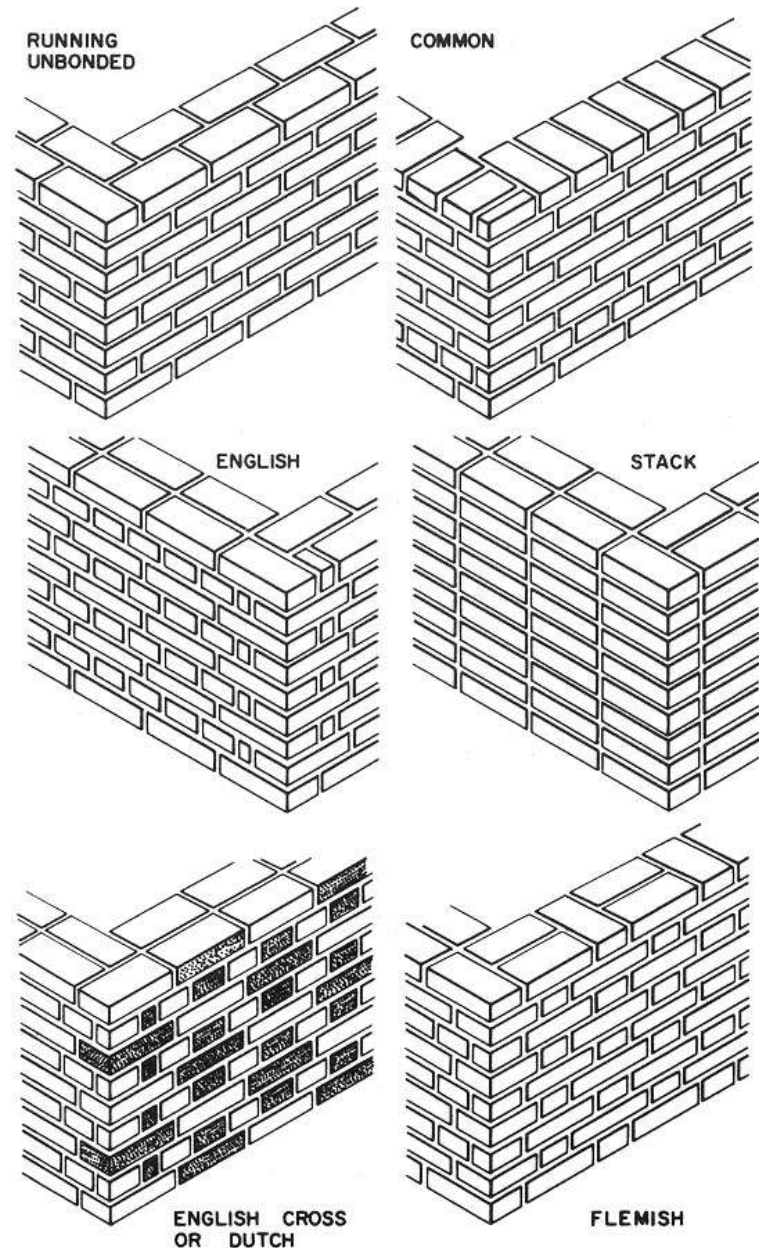


Figure G.
Layout Options for Brick Faces