DRYWALL PREPARATION

Safety Talk

Basic Construction Safety

1. Drink plenty of water and watch for dehydration!
2. When you are tired - Rest!
3. Know where the First Aid Kit is - if you are hurt see your House Leader or Site Host immediately. Our Accident Procedure is in the Site Host book, please follow it.
4. Fill out an Incident Report any time the First Aid Kit is opened.
5. Keep a name tag on at all times.
6. Use Common Sense! Keep an eye on your own safety and the safety of others.
7. Concentrate -- especially if you are on a ladder or roof.
8. Watch for trip hazards wherever you are going.
9. Help keep the site safe by picking up and moving things that are in the way.
10. If you see something unsafe tell your House Leader or a Staff Member.
11. Hardhats are required to be worn at all times through the completion of drywall lids.
12. Either prescription or safety glasses should be worn at all times when creating dust.
13. Dust masks should be worn at all times when creating dust.
14. Please refrain from using ear buds on site, as they caused distraction and are a safety hazard.
15. Do not use cell phones or other electronic devices while working as they create safety hazards.

Lifting and Carrying

1. Bend your knees and lift with your legs not your back.
2. If something is too heavy, get help - don't hesitate to ask!
3. Make sure you can see over what you are carrying.
4. When carrying something longer than 8 feet have a person on each end.

Ladders

1. At the beginning of each day inspect all ladders for any structural defects that would make them unsafe. If any defects are found, mark the ladder(s) and set it aside for the Site Supervisor's disposition.
2. Use the right size ladder and place it on a solid footing
3. Never lean an A-frame ladder against anything, always use it fully opened.
4. Never stand on the top step or back side of a ladder.
5. Don't stretch/lean too far – always keep your belt buckle between the ladder uprights - take the time to move the ladder with your work!
6. Get someone to steady your ladder if needed.
7. Only one person on a ladder at a time.
8. The 4 to 1 rule: For every 4 feet of height, move extension ladders one foot away from the wall.

Power Tools

1. Make sure you know how to use a power tool and don't disable safety features.
2. Wear safety glasses when using power saws and other power tools that create flying debris.
3. Make sure power cord is unplugged before performing any tool maintenance.

4. Take off gloves when working with saws.
5. Watch fingers near moving parts and tie back long hair.
6. Secure all loose clothing (shirt cuffs, nail pouches, etc.)
7. Watch the power cord when cutting and don't carry a power tool by its cord.
8. Get help when cutting large/long pieces of material.

Key Things to Remember

1. Verify all items on the Pre-Drywall Checklist are completed.

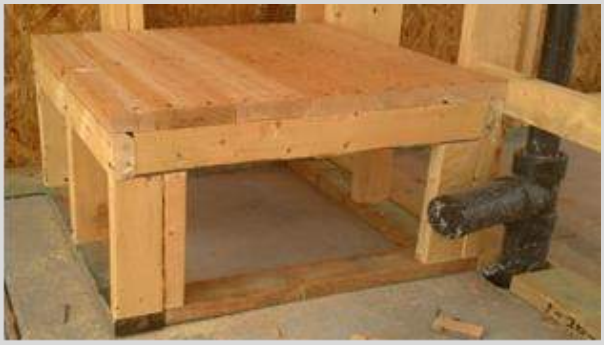
Efficient Material Usage

Blocking:

1. Cut up warped or older material for blocking before using good material.
2. NEVER cut up stud materials. Make all cuts from the 16' lineal 2x4 or 2x6.

Water Heater Platform

Minimum Water Heater platform height is 18”to the top of the 2x6 top. Minimum depth and width is 28”. It may be larger per plan depending on space available per model. If there is a solar water heater, the platform needs to be at least 32” square.



Frame the bottom of the platform with green plate.

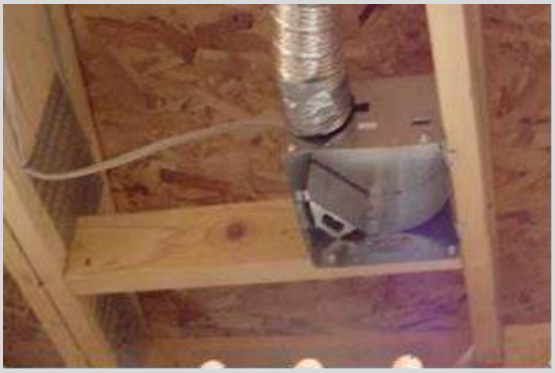
The easiest and sturdiest way to build the platform is to create two walls (one each for the front and rear of the platform) 16 1/2” high and the width of the available space.

If the heater is in a closet, simply attach the platform walls to the closet walls. If the heater is in the garage, attach the platform walls to the garage walls where you can and then brace/frame the rest together. Install the 2x6 top, and the platform framing is complete.

Drywall is to be installed on the exposed sides and the top of the platform.

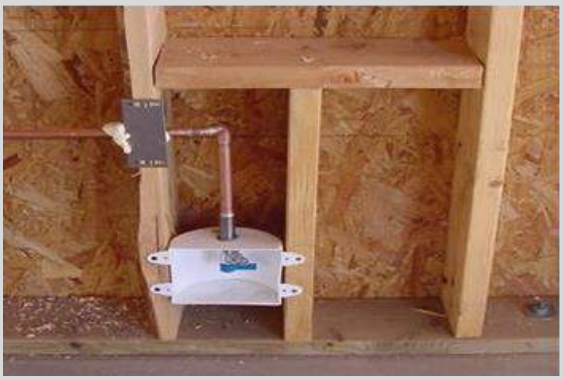
Blocking

Install blocking around laundry and bathroom exhaust fans so that they are supported on two sides. Refer to the section in the framing chapter for any question about lid blocking.



Block behind icemaker water box. If the plumbing line runs vertically, notch the top block as needed to fit around the line.

Install blocking around all four sides of all HVAC vents and returns.



Block above and behind the water supply box.

Block around the dryer vent box. Install a piece of blocking across the top and a piece down the side.

Cabinet Blocking:

- Install kitchen cabinet blocking at 84" O.C., 54" O.C. and 34" O.C. above finish floor flush with the cabinet wall face. Also install 2x6 blocking for the microwave at 56" O.C.
- Install vanity blocking at 31" O.C. above finish floor flush with the cabinet wall face.
- Install closet shelf blocking at all cleating locations (i.e. 40" & 80" to top above finish floor) flush with the interior wall on both sides and back.
- It is easier to install the blocking if the blocks are staggered. 2x6 blocks make the job even easier.

Closet Air Handler Platform

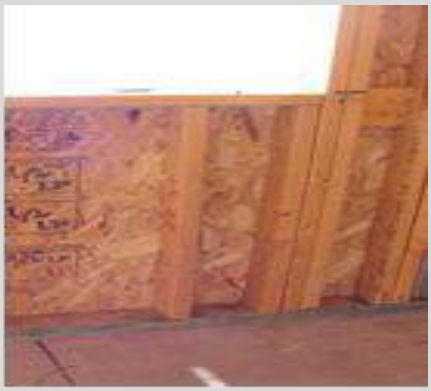
- For FAU closets the standard platform height is 18". Nail a ledger to all four walls at that height. Install fire-blocking in each bay behind the ledger. Attach a greenboard bottom plate to the floor under the front ledger (this it to attach drywall to).
- Cut a piece of OSB for the platform deck and have it in place (but not nailed down) before HVAC rough-in is done.
- Also cut and install a piece of OSB at the top of the closet. The HVAC installer will cut the necessary holes in both pieces during his installation. As soon as this has been done, please nail the deck in place.
- *When the time comes to spray foam air gaps, remember to fill the ones around the ductwork in this closet.*

Interior Framing

Interior Framing is a good task to be done by volunteers who do not wish to work on a roof. However, a ladder is required for much of the work.

1. Check all interior framing
2. Check nailing pattern on all wall intersections; use two 10d nails every 18" on cal corners, and at ladder rungs.
3. Check nailing pattern on all trimmers and king studs; use two 10d nails every 18".
4. Check all studs for straightness using a six or eight-foot level perpendicular to the studs.
5. Any studs bowed out of the plane of the wall must be shimmed with drywall shims or strips of shingle, or planed with a power planer to align properly.

6. Walls where cabinets will be installed in the kitchen and in bathrooms absolutely must be perfectly flush.
7. Check for cripples below the ends of all windowsills (picture below left).
8. Check for Nail plates over breaks in top plate at Dryer vent and PVC overflow lines from air handler.
9. Check all plumbing and electrical penetrations. Nail plates are required if the penetrations is less than 1" from the surface of the framing member (picture below right).

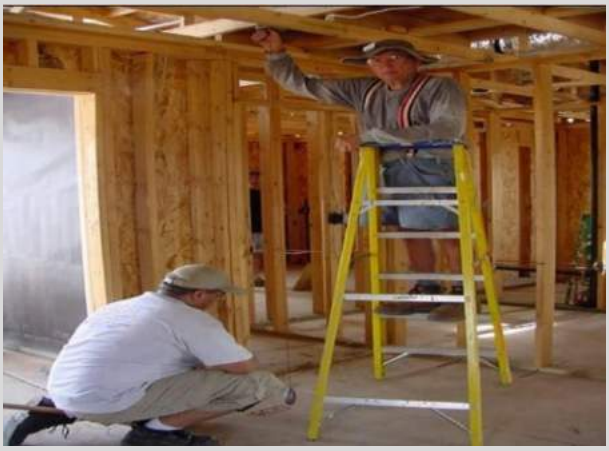


Square Walls

Corners where cabinets will be installed MUST be square. This should have been verified during framing, but please check again by holding a large square or full sheet of OSB in the corner and check for gaps. Make corrections as needed.

Marking Locations

Marking Walls: Use a large marking pen to mark the center of each stud on the concrete (USE THIS ONLY WHERE THE CONCRETE WILL BE COVERED BY CARPET OR TILE). USE PENCIL ON EXPOSED CONCRETE. Follow the same procedure to mark each truss on the top plate of every wall where there isn't a hurricane clip to use as a guide.



Marking Fixtures: Use a marker to indicate every electrical outlet, plumbing outlet, vent, ceiling fan, smoke detector and ceiling light. Measure down from the middle of the wall fixture to the floor and write down that number on the concrete. **Remember to use pencil on exposed concrete.**

For ceiling fixtures, draw a rough outline of the fixture directly below it on the concrete. Use a plumb bob (a chalk line can also be used) to help locate the ceiling fixtures.

Mark the location of all nail plates on the slab.

Sealing the Air Envelope

To comply with Energy Star and LEED air tightness requirements we need to seal all of the locations that air could flow through.

The second phase of this process applies to all top/double top plates.

IT IS NOT ACCEPTABLE TO USE INSULATION TO STUFF LARGE GAPS IN TOP PLATE PENETRATIONS. All penetrations must be sealed using fireproof caulk (or spray foam if it is allowed by your municipality).

Also, at this time be sure to check for any large gaps on exterior walls at outlets, spigots, etc. that our subcontractors failed to seal.

Pre-Drywall Inspection Checklist

1. All fire blocking installed.
2. Scuttle hole framed in. Attic platform and walkway in place (if Air Handler in attic).
3. All Windows installed
4. Insulation installed behind tubs. Tubs blocked and anchored (screws at 8" O.C.).
5. Block all 4 sides of A/C vents.
6. Block at least 2 sides of exhaust fans.
7. Block icemaker water box.
8. Block washer water box.
9. Block dryer vent box. Check for nail plate at top plate by dryer vent duct.
10. Blocking for cabinets and shelving.
11. Drywall blocking where needed at all corners and wall/ceiling joints.
12. All wiring and plumbing must be protected by nail plates when less than 1" away from edge of framing.
13. All holes in top plate and through exterior walls must be filled with spray foam or fire caulk. Which materials are allowed/preferred, varies by municipality.
14. Roofing completed.

Items not required for Inspection, but Habitat helpful

15. Mark location of all trusses, studs, lights, outlets, switches, and smoke detectors for ease of drywall installation.