

Framing Terminology

Wall studs are generally made of 2x4's. Sometimes a 2x6 will be used as a wall stud to allow a greater thickness of insulation to be installed.

Use the accompanying picture along with the following definitions to fully understand each component.

Wall Stud

A wall stud, or stud in the vertical wood member of a wall, generally spaced 16" on center (o.c.) although they can be spaced 12" oc and 24" oc.

Cripple Stud

The short stud under a window opening that supports the sill.

King Stud

The full height wall stud that supports the header by attaching to the side of the header.

Trimmer Stud

This is the short stud that runs alongside a King stud and supports the header.

Bottom Plate

This is the bottom 2x4 which is perpendicular to the studs, and is the member that the studs are nailed to. The bottom plate rests on the floor.

Top Plate

This is the same as the bottom plate but at the top.

Double Top Plate

The primary purpose of the top plate is to tie two intersecting walls, or splicing a long inline wall, together by overlapping the top plate onto another section of wall. Secondly it adds supporting strength to the top plate.

Intersecting Top Plate

This is a top plate that overlaps from one wall section to another section of wall to connect them together.

Sill

This is the bottom framing member of a typical window opening.

Header

This is a structural component that spans an opening to support weight above it. A header can be built with different sizes but typically is built from 2x12's or 2x10's.

16" oc (on center)

This is the spacing distance of typical wall studs. This distance is measured from center of one stud to the center of another. Other less common spacing distances include 12" oc and 24" oc.. The reasoning behind this is structural. Consequently typical wall, floor and roof panels are manufactured 48" wide by 96" long which both naturally end (break) on framing members with that spacing.

16p Nails

This is the typical nail used to join framing members together. A 16p nail is 3 ¼" to 3 ½" long. The name comes from long ago when 100 of these nails could be purchased for 16 pence (cents).

