



**WoodWorks™**  
WOOD PRODUCTS COUNCIL

# Essential Design & Detailing Aspects of Mid-Rise Wood-Frame Construction

**Marc Rivard, PE, SE**

Regional Director - MA, CT, ME, NH, RI, VT

**Momo Sun, PE**

Regional Director – NY, NJ, PA

**Terry Pattillo, AIA**

Regional Director – DC, DE, WV, VA



Photo: Brett Drury



“The Wood Products Council” is a Registered Provider with The American Institute of Architects Continuing Education Systems (AIA/CES), Provider #G516.

Credit(s) earned on completion of this course will be reported to **AIA CES** for AIA members. Certificates of Completion for both AIA members and non-AIA members are available upon request.

This course is registered with **AIA CES** for continuing professional education. As such, it does not include content that may be deemed or construed to be an approval or endorsement by the AIA of any material of construction or any method or manner of handling, using, distributing, or dealing in any material or product.

---

Questions related to specific materials, methods, and services will be addressed at the conclusion of this presentation.



# Course Description

---

- This seminar will focus on structural design strategies for mid-rise wood-frame projects. As modern multi-family living evolves to achieve greater urban density while accommodating more amenities and long-term value, projects are growing larger, taller and incorporating more open space with views of the surrounding neighborhood. As the material of choice for many of these mid-rise projects, wood framing is well suited to accomplish these evolving trends in multi-family and mid-rise construction. However, along with a shift in the aesthetic and programmatic layout of these buildings has come a need to better frame the spaces and that onus is on the structural engineers. In addition, more and more of a building's fire and life safety design considerations are becoming a joint effort with architect and engineer.
- 
- This half-day seminar will address a number of topics that structural engineers will need to understand in order to cost effectively design and detail mid-rise and mid-rise over podium projects.







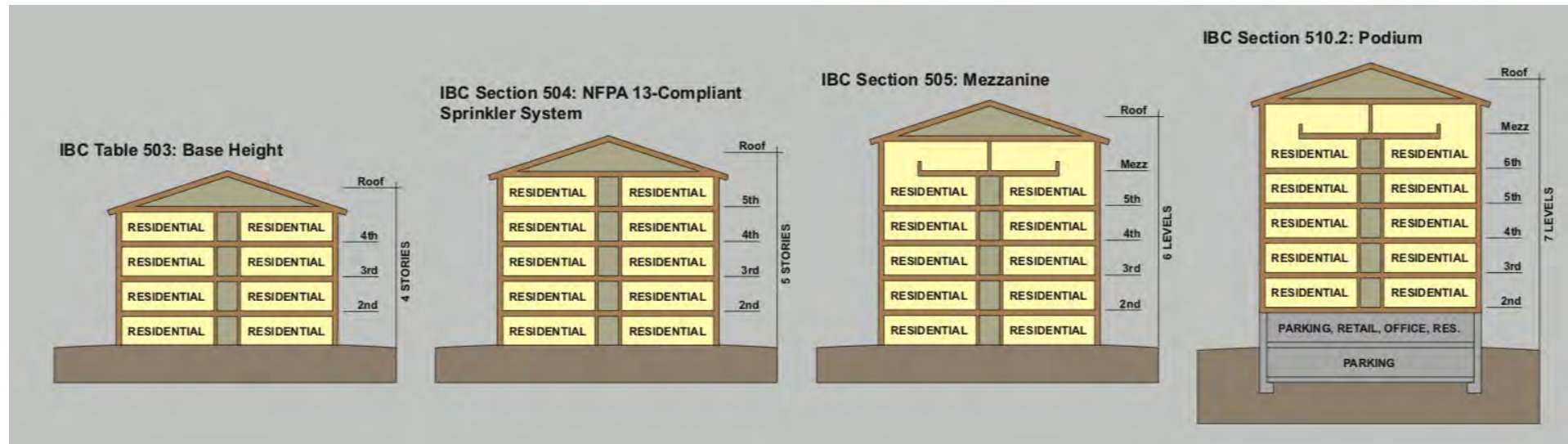








# Evolution of Mid-Rise



Credit: WoodWorks

# Heights and Areas – IBC 2015

IBC 2015: Table 504.3 provides base & increased heights

**TABLE 504.3<sup>a</sup>**  
**ALLOWABLE BUILDING HEIGHT IN FEET ABOVE GRADE PLANE**

OCCUPANCY CLASSIFICATION	TYPE OF CONSTRUCTION									
	SEE FOOTNOTES	TYPE I		TYPE II		TYPE III		HT	TYPE V	
		A	B	A	B	A	B		A	B
A, B, E, F, M, S, U	NS <sup>b</sup>	UL	160	65	55	65	55	65	50	40
	S	UL	180	85	75	85	75	85	70	60
H-1, H-2, H-3, H-5	NS <sup>c, d</sup>	UL	160	65	55	65	55	65	50	40
	S									
H-4	NS <sup>c, d</sup>	UL	160	65	55	65	55	65	50	40
	S	UL	180	85	75	85	75	85	70	60
I-1 Condition 1, I-3	NS <sup>d, e</sup>	UL	160	65	55	65	55	65	50	40
	S	UL	180	85	75	85	75	85	70	60
I-1 Condition 2, I-2	NS <sup>d, f, e</sup>	UL	160	65	55	65	55	65	50	40
	S	UL	180	85						
I-4	NS <sup>d, g</sup>	UL	160	65	55	65	55	65	50	40
	S	UL	180	85	75	85	75	85	70	60
R	NS <sup>d, h</sup>	UL	160	65	55	65	55	65	50	40
	S13R	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60
	S	UL	180	85	75	85	75	85	70	60



# Heights and Areas – IBC 2015

IBC 2015: Table 504.4 provides base & increased stories

**TABLE 504.4<sup>a, b</sup>**  
**ALLOWABLE NUMBER OF STORIES ABOVE GRADE PLANE**

OCCUPANCY CLASSIFICATION	SEE FOOTNOTES	TYPE OF CONSTRUCTION								
		TYPE I		TYPE II		TYPE III		TYPE IV	TYPE V	
		A	B	A	B	A	B	HT	A	B
A-1	NS	UL	5	3	2	3	2	3	2	1
	S	UL	6	4	3	4	3	4	3	2
A-2	NS	UL	11	3	2	3	2	3	2	1
	S	UL	12	4	3	4	3	4	3	2
A-3	NS	UL	11	3	2	3	2	3	2	1
	S	UL	12	4	3	4	3	4	3	2
R-1	NS <sup>d, h</sup>	UL	11	4	4	4	4	4	3	2
	S13R	4	4						4	3
	S	UL	12	5	5	5	5	5	4	3
R-2	NS <sup>d, h</sup>	UL	11	4	4	4	4	4	3	2
	S13R	4	4						4	3
	S	UL	12	5	5	5	5	5	4	3
R-3	NS <sup>d, h</sup>	UL	11	4	4	4	4	4	3	3
	S13R	4	4						4	4
	S	UL	12	5	5	5	5	5	4	4

# Sloped Sites

---

**HEIGHT, BUILDING.** The vertical distance from *grade plane* to the average height of the highest roof surface.

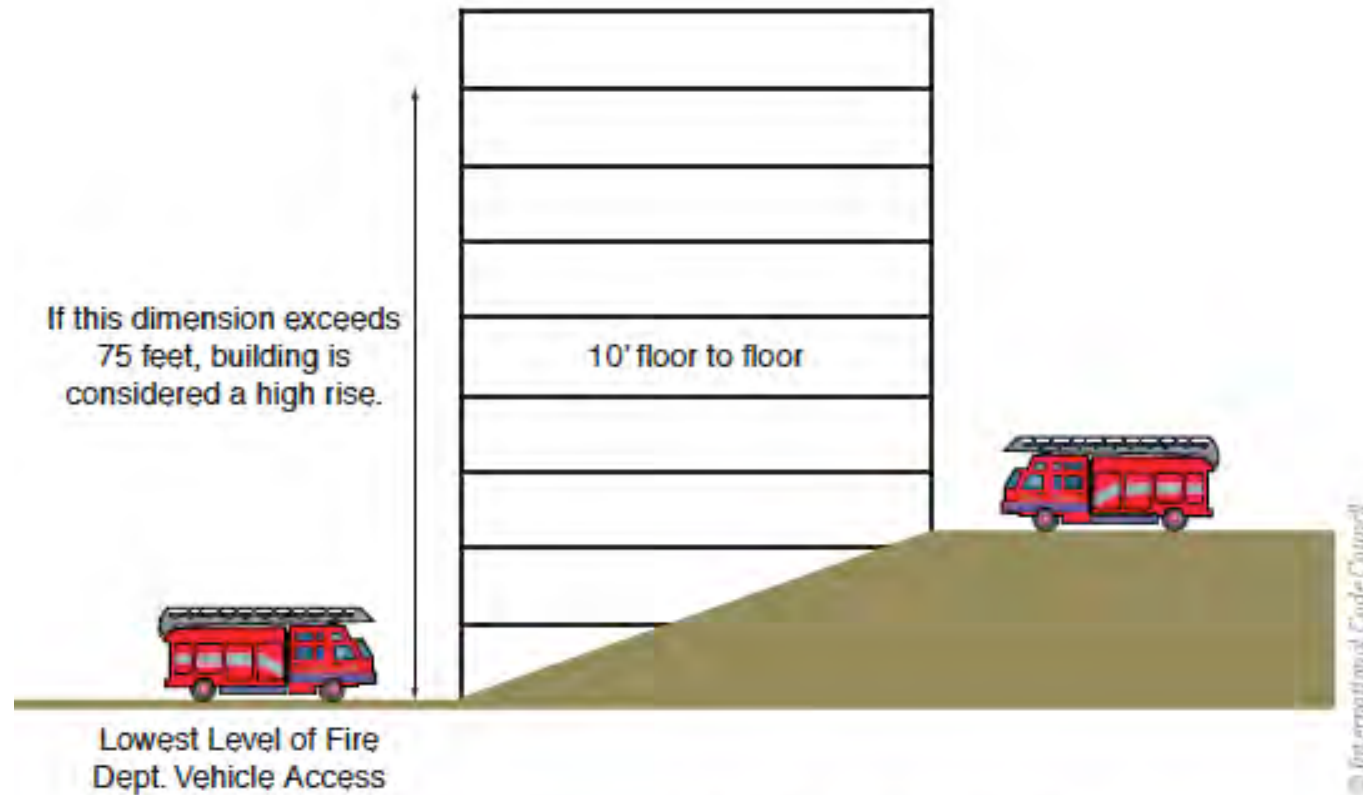
**GRADE PLANE.** A reference plane representing the average of finished ground level adjoining the building at *exterior walls*. Where the finished ground level slopes away from the *exterior walls*, the reference plane shall be established by the lowest points within the area between the building and the *lot line* or, where the *lot line* is more than 6 feet (1829 mm) from the building, between the building and a point 6 feet (1829 mm) from the building.



626 Dekalb Avenue, Atlanta, GA  
Matt Church - Davis Church Structural Engineers



# Mid-Rise vs. High-Rise Definition – IBC 202



**FIGURE 6-6** Determination of high-rise building

**IBC 202: High-Rise Building:** A building with an occupied floor located more than 75 feet above the lowest level of fire department vehicle access.





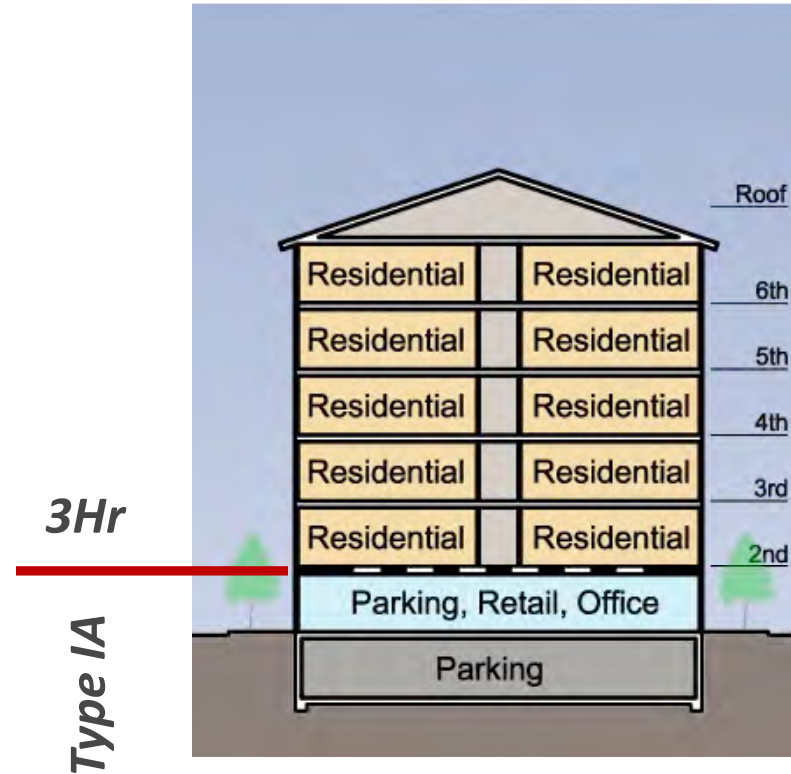




# IBC Podium Provisions



5 story Type III Building

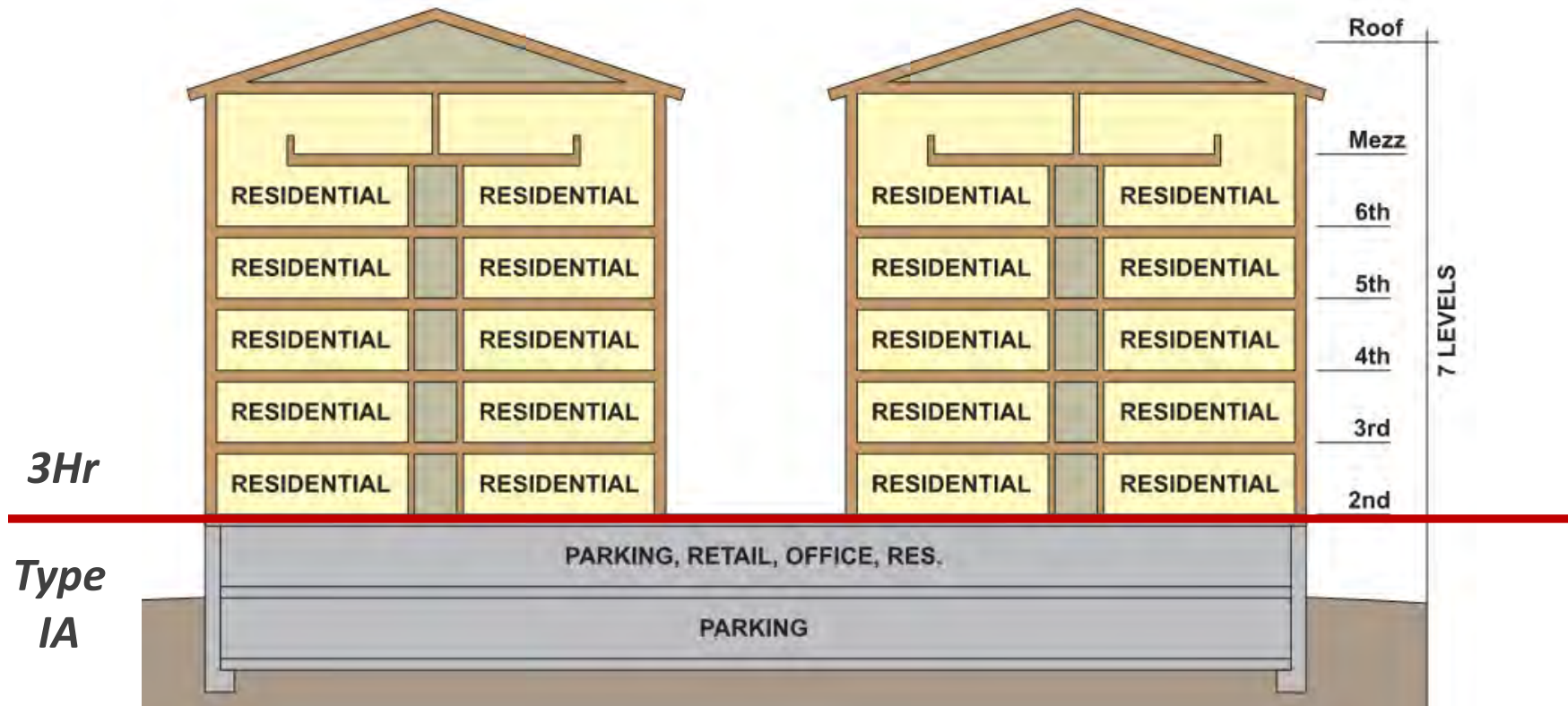


5 story Type III Building  
On Top of a Type IA Podium

*Special Provisions for Podiums in IBC 2012 510.2*  
*Increases allowable stories... not allowable building height*



# IBC Podium Provisions



*Multiple Buildings over one Podium*

*See Special Provisions for Podiums in IBC 2012 510.2*

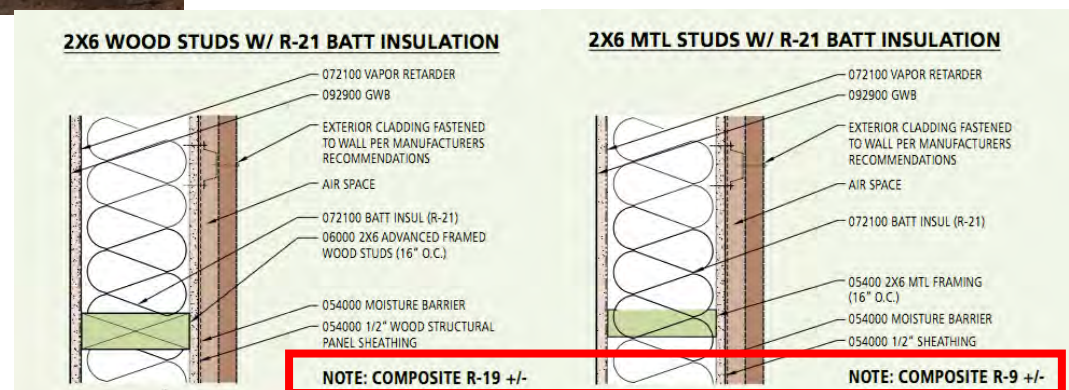
# Wood Within Podium Level(s)



Credit: WoodWorks

FRTW is permitted in non-bearing, non-rated exterior walls in types I & II (IBC 603.1)

Thermal/building envelope benefits, as well as consistent exterior wall detailing



Source: Mahlum Architects



# Wood Within Podium Level(s)

---



Credit: WoodWorks

2021 IBC allows stairs below the podium to be framed with wood if building above podium is type III, IV or V



## Wood Mid-Rise Construction

How many stories can be wood framed in the IBC?





> Marselle Condos, Seattle, WA



Photo credit: Matt Todd & PB Architects

6 stories for Offices, 5 stories for Residential  
+ Mezzanine + Multi-Story Podium



# Mid-Rise Construction Types

---

- **Type V**
  - All building elements are any allowed by code
- **Type III**
  - Exterior walls non-combustible (may be FRTW)
  - Interior elements any allowed by code
- Types III and V can be subdivided to A (protected) or B (unprotected)

# Type V Construction

---

Multi-family



Restaurants



Retail



Office



# Type VB Heights & Areas



Occupancy	# of Stories	Height	Area per Story	Building Area
A-2	2	60 ft	18,000 SF	36,000 SF
B	3	60 ft	27,000 SF	81,000 SF
M	2	60 ft	27,000 SF	54,000 SF
R-2	3	60 ft	21,000 SF	63,000 SF

Stories/Heights/Areas include allowable increases for sprinklers, but exclude potential frontage increase

1-story retail and restaurants

2 to 3-story residential/office

No fire resistance ratings required\*

# Type VA Heights & Areas

---



Occupancy	# of Stories	Height	Area per Story	Building Area
A-2	3	70 ft	34,500 SF	103,500 SF
B	4	70 ft	54,000 SF	162,000 SF
M	4	70 ft	42,000 SF	126,000 SF
R-2	4	70 ft	36,000 SF	108,000 SF

Stories/Heights/Areas include allowable increases for sprinklers, but exclude potential frontage increase

3 to 4-story residential/office

1-hour fire resistance rating required for most building elements



# Type III Construction

---

Multi-family



K-12/Higher Ed



Hospitality



Office

# Type IIIB Construction



Credit: Lever Architecture

Occupancy	# of Stories	Height	Area per Story	Building Area
A-2	3	75 ft	28,500 SF	85,500 SF
B	4	75 ft	57,000 SF	171,000 SF
M	3	75 ft	37,500 SF	112,500 SF
R-2	5	75 ft	48,000 SF	144,000 SF

Stories/Heights/Areas include allowable increases for sprinklers, but exclude potential frontage increase

4-story office / 5-story residential

2-hour fire resistance rating required for exterior bearing walls only (noncombustible or FRT construction)



# Type IIIA Construction



Credit: Christian Columbres

Occupancy	# of Stories	Height	Area per Story	Building Area
A-2	4	85 ft	42,000 SF	126,000 SF
B	6	85 ft	85,500 SF	256,500 SF
M	5	85 ft	55,500 SF	166,500 SF
R-2	5	85 ft	72,000 SF	216,000 SF

Stories/Heights/Areas include allowable increases for sprinklers, but exclude potential frontage increase

5-story residential / 6-story office

2-hour rating for exterior bearing walls

1-hour rating for other building elements

# Building Configuration Options

---

Many buildings utilize a higher construction type than necessary due to traditional practice. This can have an impact on fire ratings, materials and ultimately cost.









# Building Configuration Options

Mixed-use occupancies on 1<sup>st</sup> floor of residential buildings often require longer spans for open areas (parking, retail, assembly). Structurally, this may require steel or concrete framing. This doesn't mean that it has to be a Type IA podium, can use these materials in any construction type (IBC 602.1.1)



Credit: Brett Drury



# Building Configuration Options

---

## **Example:**

5 story building

1<sup>st</sup> floor: parking

2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> floors residential

Options:

4-story, type VA over 1 story type IA (podium provision – IBC 510.2)

4 Stories of type VA over 1 story type IV (open) or type I (IBC 510.4) no "podium" req'd

5 stories of type III (enclosed parking only) sep. or non-sep. occupancies



# Building Configuration Options

---

## **Example:**

7 story building  
(6 above grade)

Basement: parking

1<sup>st</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> floors: residential

## Options:

5-story, type III over 1 story type IA (podium provision – IBC 510.2)

4-story, type VA over 2 story podium (podium provision 2015 IBC 510.2)

6-story type IIIA (IBC 510.5 – requires 3000 ft<sup>2</sup> max areas & other limitations)



Image credit: Mahlum



# Building Configuration Options

---

## **Example:**

5 story hotel

1<sup>st</sup> floor: lobby, restaurant, fitness center, conference rooms, residential

2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> floors residential

## Option 1:

4-story, type VA over 1 story type IA (podium provision – IBC 510.2)

Mixed-use on 1<sup>st</sup> floor handled with separated/non-separated occupancies considering that floor only



# Building Configuration Options

---

## **Example:**

5 story hotel

1<sup>st</sup> floor: lobby, restaurant, fitness center, conference rooms, residential

2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> floors residential

## Option 2:

5-story, type III

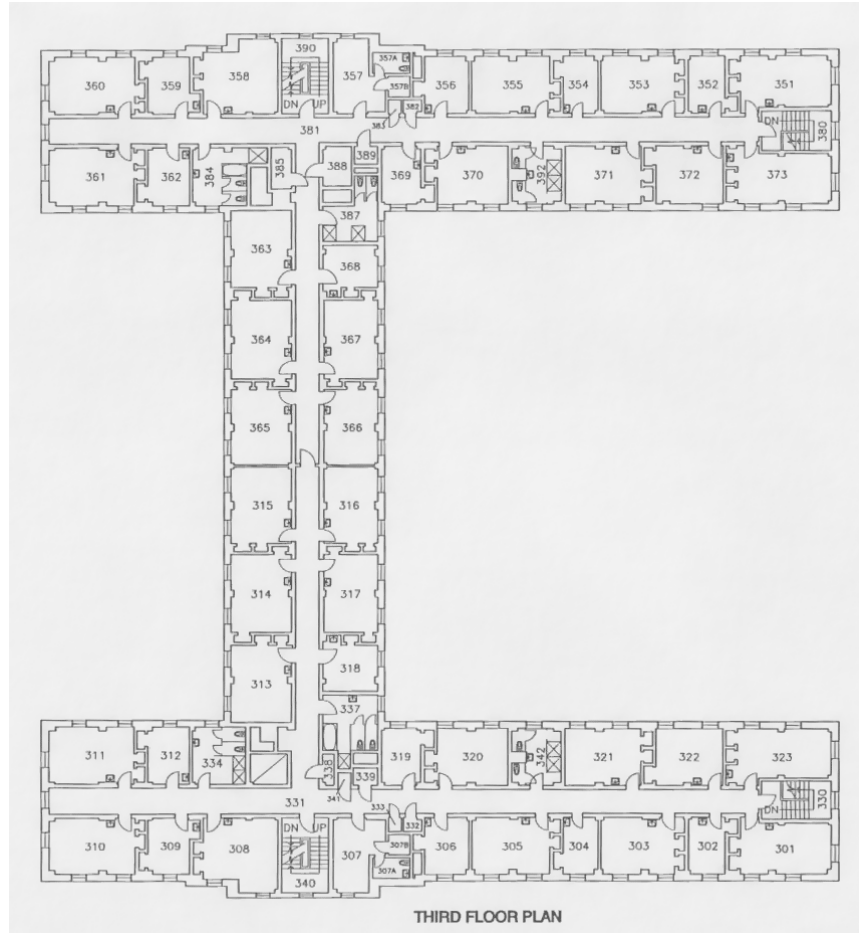
Mixed-use on 1<sup>st</sup> floor handled with separated/non-separated occupancies  
considering all floors





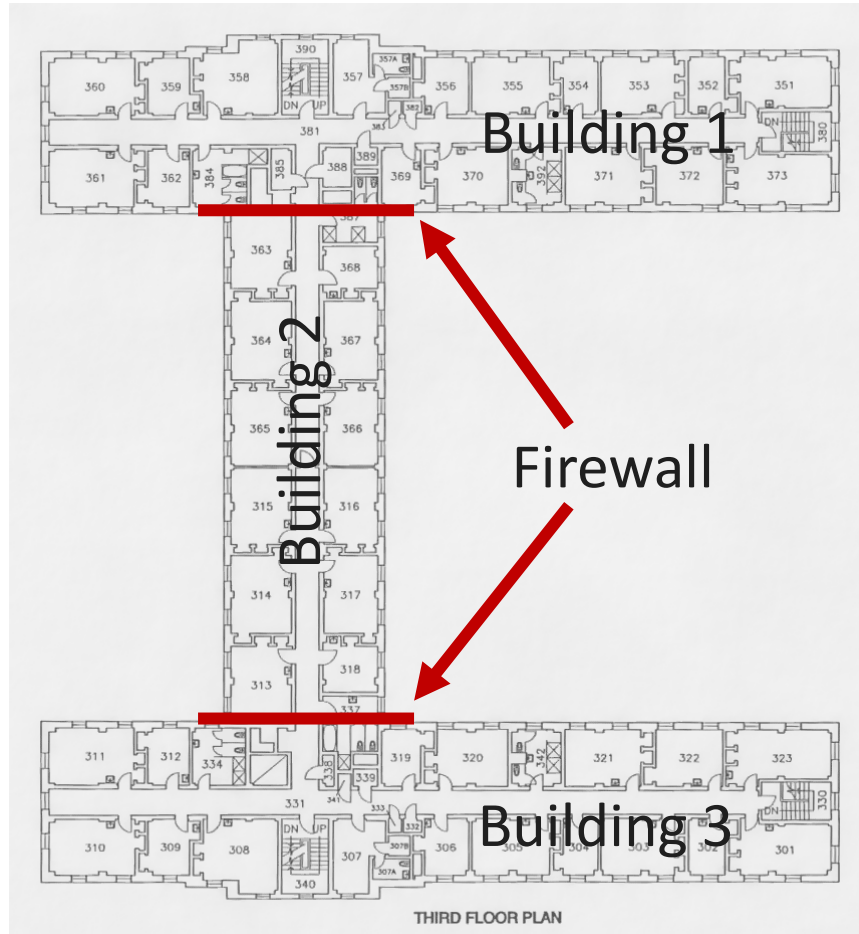
# Building Configuration Options

---



## Example:

T- and L-shaped buildings –  
common in hotels, often with large  
floor areas



These building configurations may lend themselves well to use of firewalls at building intersections.

Minimize length/impact of  
firewall while maximizing  
allowable building area  
may allow lower construction  
type (i.e. type IIIB instead of IIIA)





Let's Talk Structure  
(architecturally)

# Type III Exterior Walls – FRT

---

## **Type III Construction - IBC Section 602.3:**

Fire-retardant-treated wood framing complying with Section 2303.2 shall be permitted within exterior wall assemblies of a 2-hour rating or less

What does this FRTW requirement include?

- Wall Framing (Studs & Plates) – Yes
- Headers – Yes
- Wall Sheathing – Yes
- Floor sheathing - ?
- Rim Joist- ?
- Floor Joists- ?



Credit: WoodWorks



# Exterior Walls – Intersecting Floors



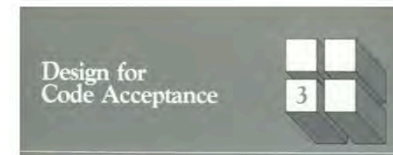
# Choosing Fire Rated Assemblies

Common tested assemblies (ASTM E119) per IBC 703.2:

- UL Listings
- Gypsum Catalog
- Proprietary Manufacturer Tests
- **Industry Documents: such as AWC's DCA3**

Alternate Methods per IBC 703.3

- Prescriptive designs per IBC 721.1
- Calculated Fire Resistance per IBC 722
- Fire-resistance designs documented in sources
- Engineering analysis based on a comparison
- Fire-resistance designs certified by an approved agency



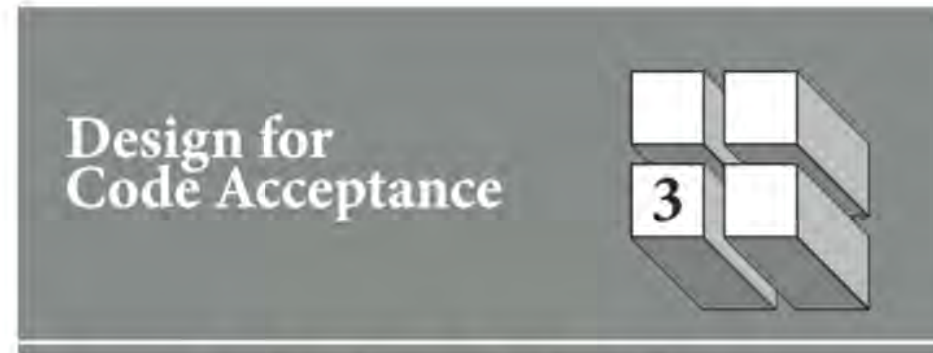


# Exterior Walls – Intersecting Floors

AWC's DCA3 provides floor to wall intersection detailing options

Addresses both continuity provisions and requirements for FRT elements in exterior wall plane

Credit: AWC



## Fire-Resistance-Rated Wood-Frame Wall and Floor/Ceiling Assemblies

### Building Code Requirements

For occupancies such as stores, apartments, offices, and other commercial and industrial uses, building codes commonly require floor/ceiling and wall assemblies to be fire-resistance rated in accordance with standard fire tests. This document is intended to aid in the design of various wood-frame walls and wood-frame floor/ceiling assemblies, where such assemblies are required by code to be fire-resistance-rated.

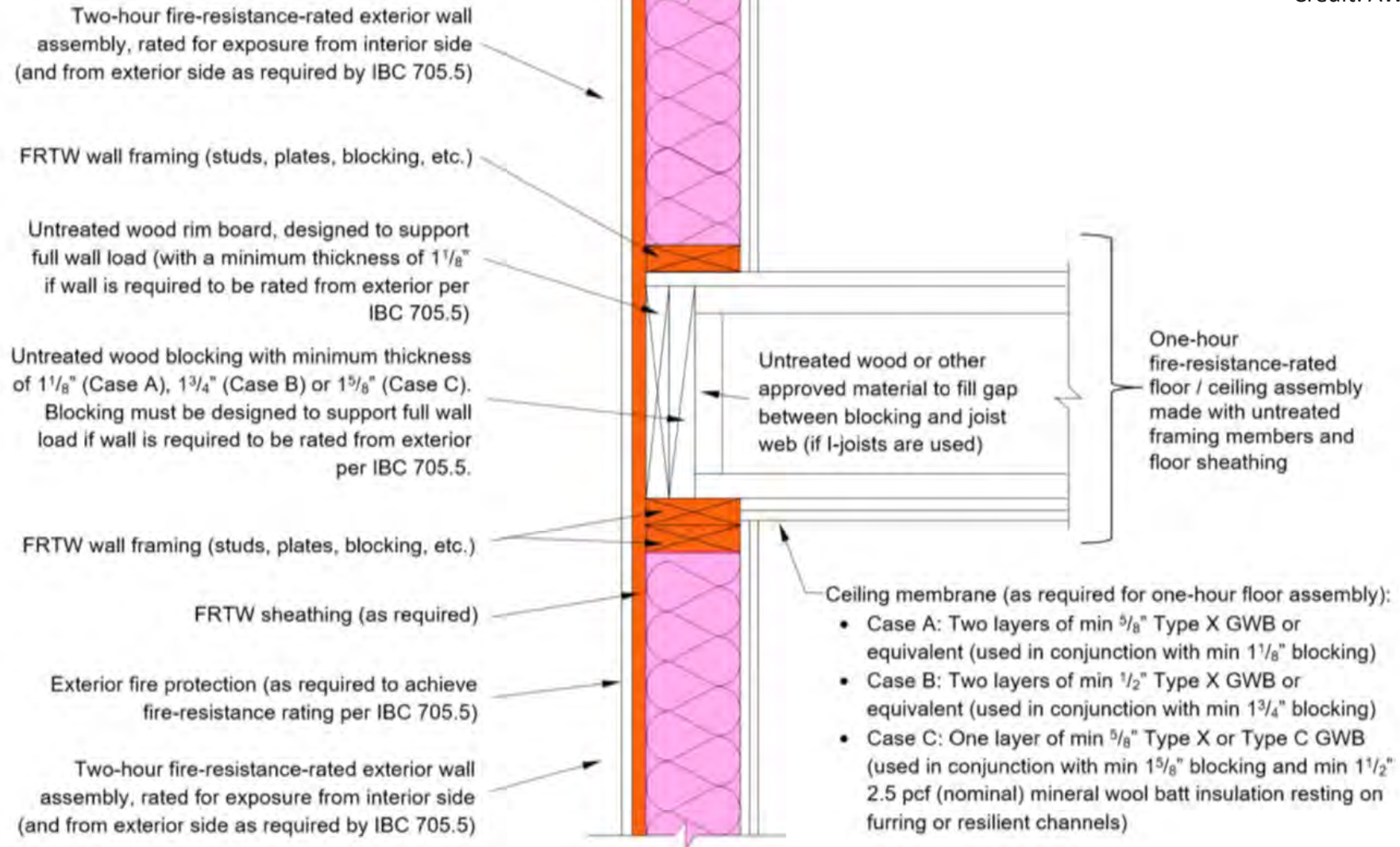
Depending on the application, wall assemblies may need to be fire-resistance-rated for exposure from either one side or both sides. Exterior walls are required to be rated for both interior and exterior fire exposure where the wall has a fire separation distance of 10 feet or less. For exterior walls with a fire separation distance of greater than 10 feet, the required fire-resistance-rating applies only to exposure from the interior. The designer should note that some state and local building code amendments may require fire resistance rating for exposure from both sides of exterior walls, regardless of fire separation distance; however,

### Fire Tested Assemblies

Fire-resistance-rated wood-frame assemblies can be found in a number of sources including the *International Building Code (IBC)*, Underwriters Laboratories (UL) *Fire Resistance Directory*, Intertek Testing Services' *Directory of Listed Products*, and the Gypsum Association's *Fire Resistance Design Manual (GA 600)*. The American Wood Council (AWC) and its members have tested a number of wood-frame fire-resistance-rated assemblies (see photos). Descriptions of successfully tested lumber wall assemblies are provided in [Table 1](#) for one-hour fire-resistance-rated wall assemblies and [Table 2](#) for two-hour fire-resistance-rated wall assemblies. Lumber shall be identified by the grade mark of a lumber grading or inspection agency that has been approved by an accreditation body that complies with the *American Softwood Lumber Standard (PS 20)*. The fire-resistance-rated assemblies described in this document, as well as those listed in other sources are not species- or grade-specific unless specifically noted as such.

# Exterior Walls – Intersecting Floors

Credit: AWC



**Figure 1A: Example detail for Type III-A exterior wall-floor intersection with rim board and blocking**



# Exterior Walls – Intersecting Floors

Credit: AWC

Two-hour fire-resistance-rated exterior wall assembly, rated for exposure from interior side



## Methodology:

### Fire-resistance for exposure from interior side:

- Case A: Minimum 1<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub>-inch-thick inner rim board plus two layers of minimum <sup>5</sup>/<sub>8</sub> in. Type X GWB in the ceiling membrane provides 2 hours of protection to the outer rim board, based on the NDS-calculated time for the char depth to reach the inner rim board / outer rim board interface plus 40 minutes for each layer of <sup>5</sup>/<sub>8</sub> in. Type X GWB (per IBC Table 722.6.2(1)).
- Case B: Minimum 1<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>-inch-thick inner rim board plus two layers of minimum <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> in. Type X GWB in the ceiling membrane provides 2 hours of protection to the outer rim board, based on the NDS-calculated time for the char depth to reach the inner rim board / outer rim board interface plus 25 minutes for each layer of <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> in. Type X GWB (per IBC Table 722.6.2(1)).
- Case C: Minimum 1<sup>5</sup>/<sub>8</sub>-inch-thick inner rim board plus one layer of minimum <sup>5</sup>/<sub>8</sub> in. Type X GWB in the ceiling membrane plus minimum 1<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>-inch-thick, 2.5 pcf (nominal) mineral wool batt insulation provides 2 hours of protection to the outer rim board, based on the NDS-calculated time for the char depth to reach the inner rim board / outer rim board interface, plus 40 minutes for the <sup>5</sup>/<sub>8</sub> in. Type X GWB (per IBC Table 722.6.2(1)), plus 15 minutes for the mineral wool insulation.

The outer rim board must be designed to support the load from the wall above.

Fire-resistance for exposure from exterior side (where required per IBC Section 705.5): A combination of exterior fire protection, FRTW sheathing, and minimum 1<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub>-inch-thick outer rim board is used to provide two hours of protection to the inner rim board. Layers to the exterior of the outer rim board (e.g., exterior fire protection, FRTW sheathing, etc.) must be sufficient to provide at least 80 minutes of protection to the outer rim board. The inner rim board must be designed to support the load from the wall above.

(and from exterior side as required by IBC 705.5)



(and from exterior side as required by IBC 705.5)

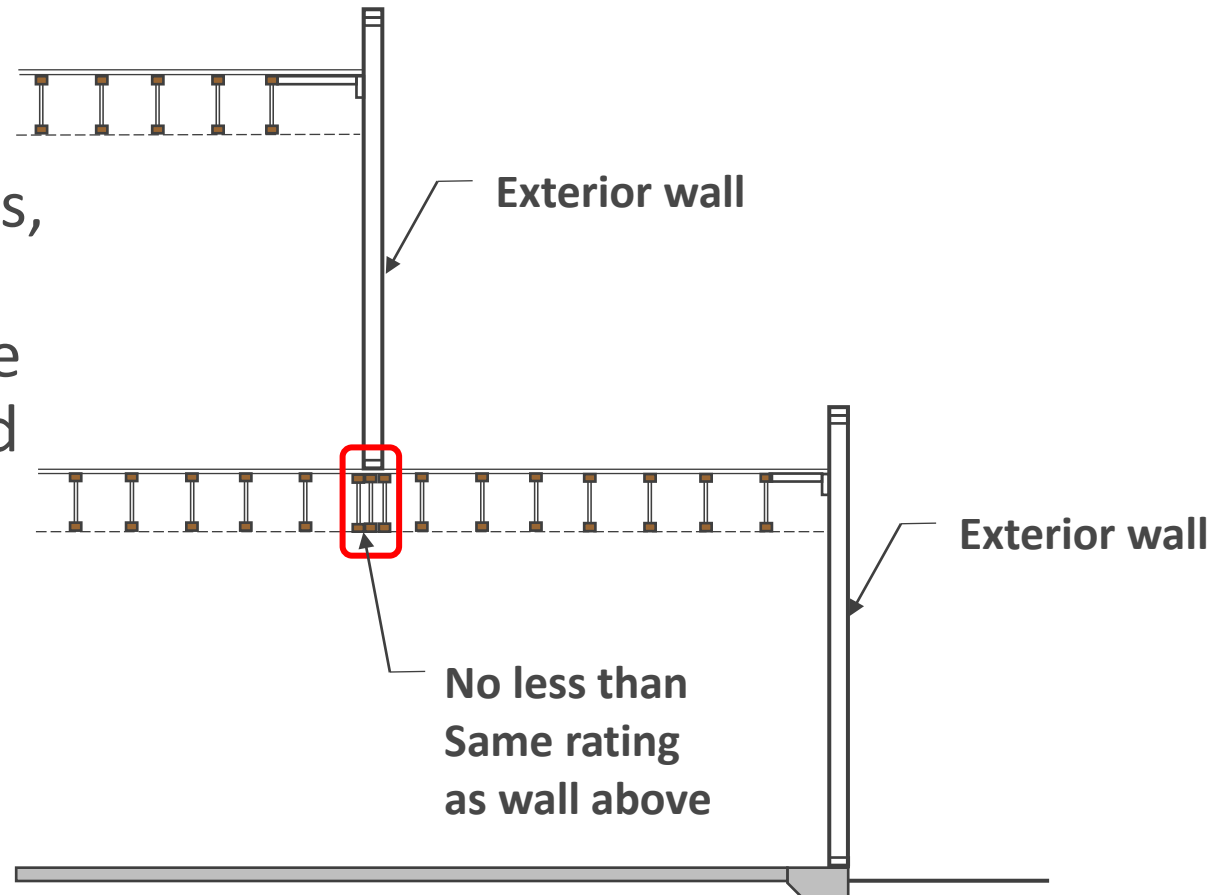
**Figure 1A: Example detail for Type III-A exterior wall–floor intersection with rim board and blocking**

# Exterior Walls – Vertical Offsets

**There is no requirement for an exterior wall to extend to the foundation in a stepped building.**

Posts, beams or walls, that support a rated exterior wall must be fire –resistance rated not less than the rating of the supported wall

(IBC -2015 705.6)





# Accommodating Wood Shrinkage



Credit: Brett Drury

# Shrinkage Code Requirements

---

- **2304.3.3 Shrinkage.** Wood walls and bearing partitions shall not support more than two floors and a roof unless an analysis satisfactory to the building official shows that shrinkage of the wood framing will not have adverse effects on the structure or any plumbing, electrical or mechanical systems, or other equipment installed therein due to excessive shrinkage or differential movements caused by shrinkage. The analysis shall also show that the roof drainage system and the foregoing systems or equipment will not be adversely affected or, as an alternative, such systems shall be designed to accommodate the differential shrinkage or movements.



# Shrinkage Calculations

---

Product	Moisture Content
Lumber – S-Dry	19% or less
Lumber – S-Green	Usually over 19%
Panel products (OSB, plywood)	4-8%
I-Joists	4-16%

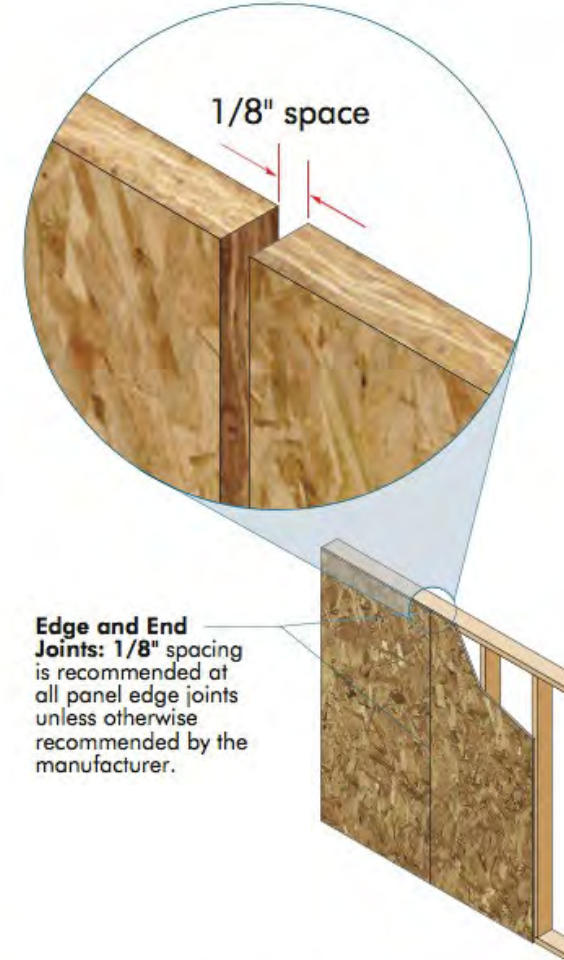
➡  $M_i = 19\%$

➡  $M_i = 28\%$





# Example Shrinkage Calculation



Source: APA – The Engineered Wood Association

# Shrinkage Design Considerations

---

Designing and detailing to accommodate shrinkage is a design criteria but it doesn't need to be difficult

With proper calculations, detailing & an understanding of how and why wood shrinks, it simply becomes a very approachable design topic



# Shrinkage Design Considerations

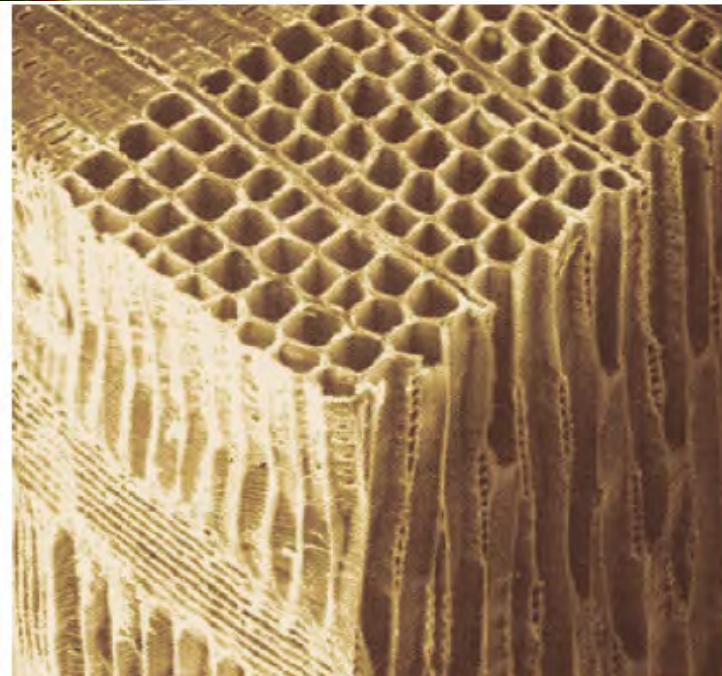
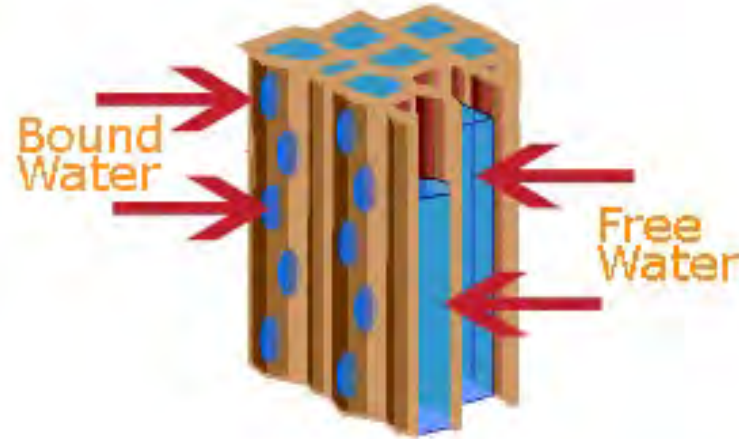
---



Image: Schaefer



# Wood Science – Moisture in Wood



**When does wood shrink?**

- After MC drops below FSP – bound water is removed

**Why does wood shrink?**

- Loss of moisture bound to cell wall changes thickness of cell wall

**Is shrinkage uniform across all dimensions of a piece of lumber?**

- No...

# Wood Science

Wood is orthotropic, meaning it behaves differently in its three orthogonal directions: Longitudinal (L), Radial (R), and Tangential (T)

- Longitudinal shrinkage is negligible
- Can assume avg. of radial & tangential or assume all tangential

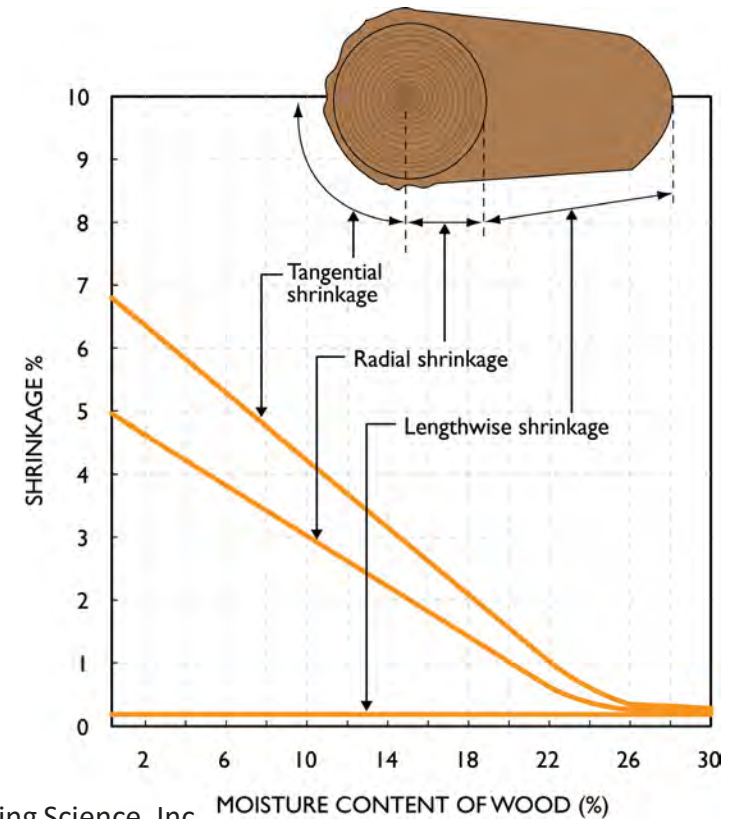
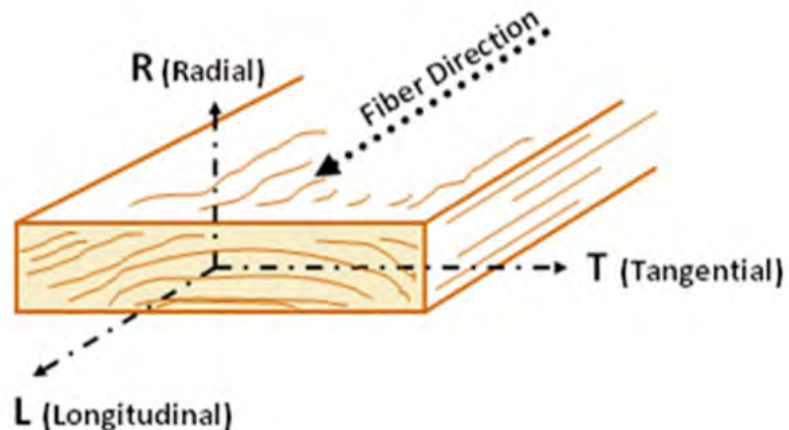
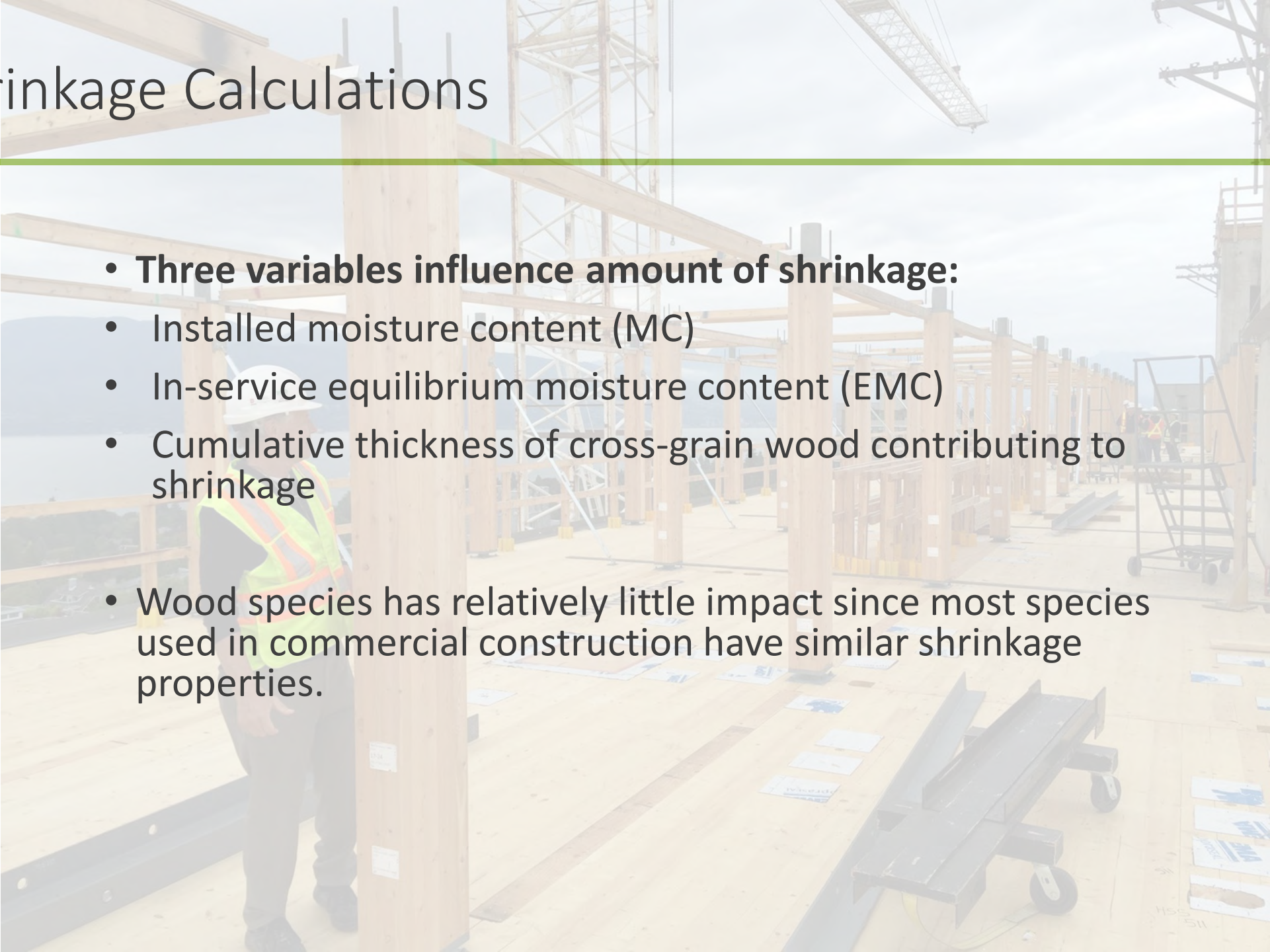


Image: RDH Building Science, Inc.

# Shrinkage Calculations

---

- **Three variables influence amount of shrinkage:**
  - Installed moisture content (MC)
  - In-service equilibrium moisture content (EMC)
  - Cumulative thickness of cross-grain wood contributing to shrinkage
- Wood species has relatively little impact since most species used in commercial construction have similar shrinkage properties.



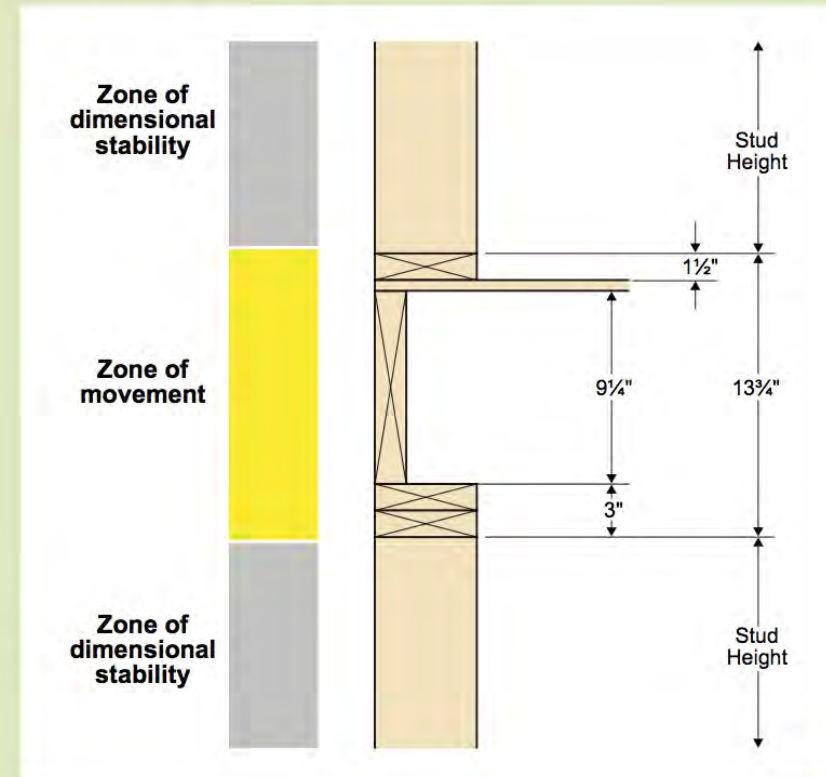


# Shrinkage Calculations – Cross Grain Wood

- Shrinkage occurs in cross-grain, but not longitudinal, wood dimensions
  - Primarily in horizontal members
  - Wall plates
  - Floor/rim joists
  - Engineering judgement required when determining what to include in shrinkage zone
  - Should Sheathing, I-Joists, Trusses, other products manufactured with low MC be included?

**FIGURE 5:**

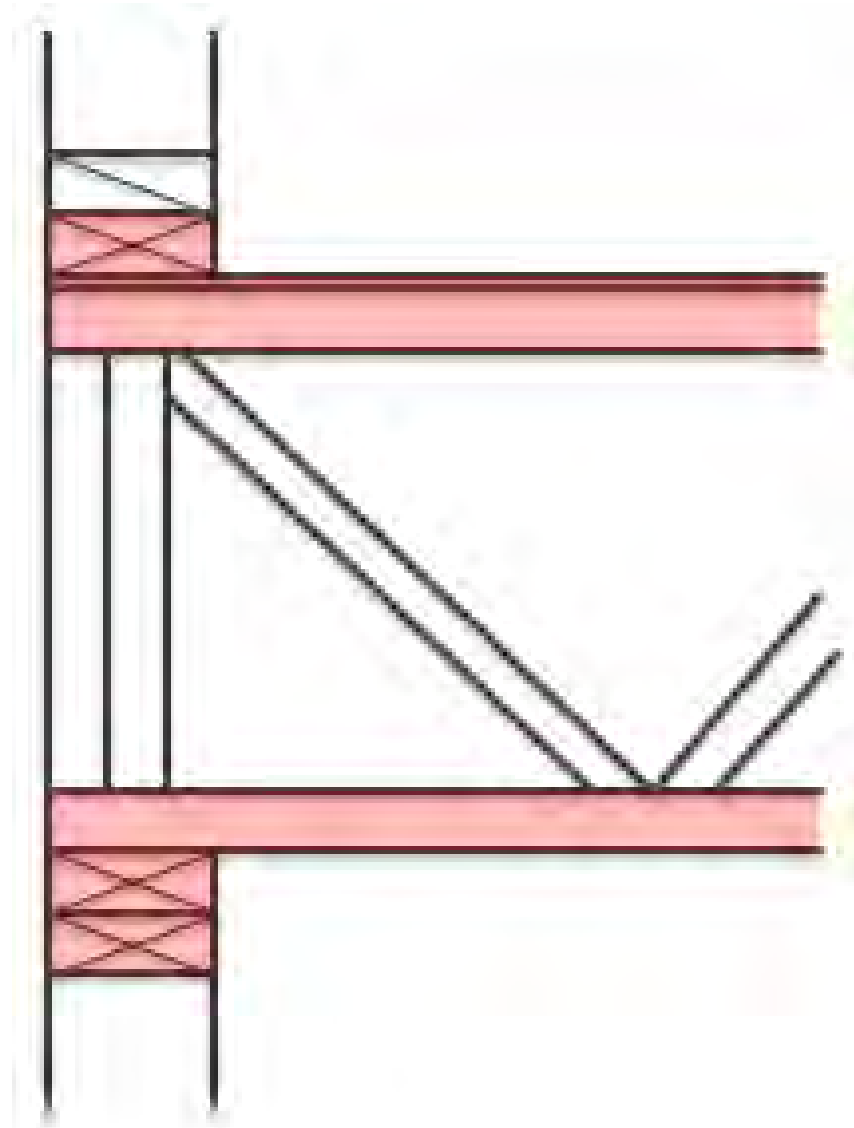
Shrinkage zone in platform-framed detail



# Shrinkage Calculations – Cross Grain Wood

---

In parallel chord trusses, only chords contribute to shrinkage, vertical and diagonal webs don't



# Shrinkage Calculations – Running the Numbers

- **Simplified Method:**

- $S = 0.0025 \text{ in / inch of cross grain wood / \% MC change}$

- Example: 13.75" shrinkage zone

- Installed MC = 19%

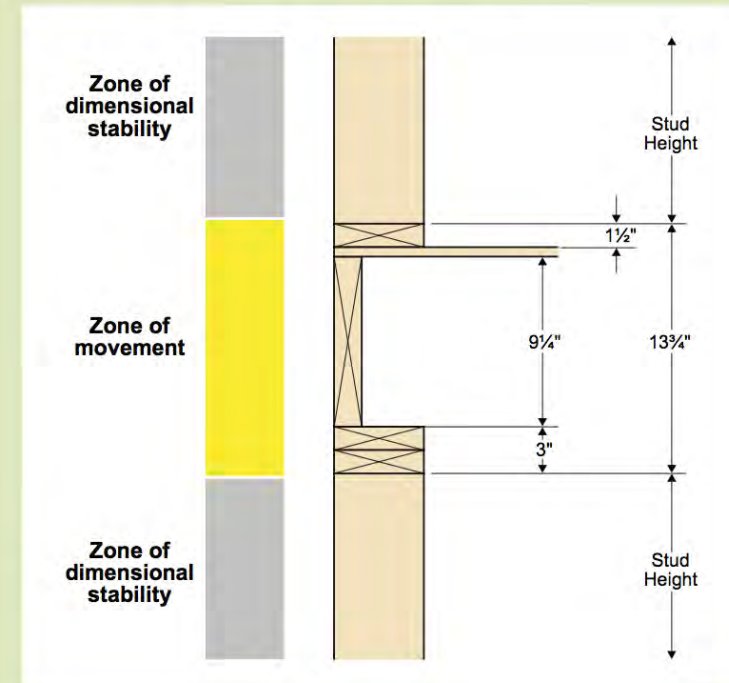
- EMC = 12%

- $S = (0.0025)(13.75'')(12-19) = \mathbf{-0.24''}$

- (note: Negative value due to loss
- in cross section)

**FIGURE 5:**

Shrinkage zone in platform-framed detail





# Minimizing Shrinkage

---

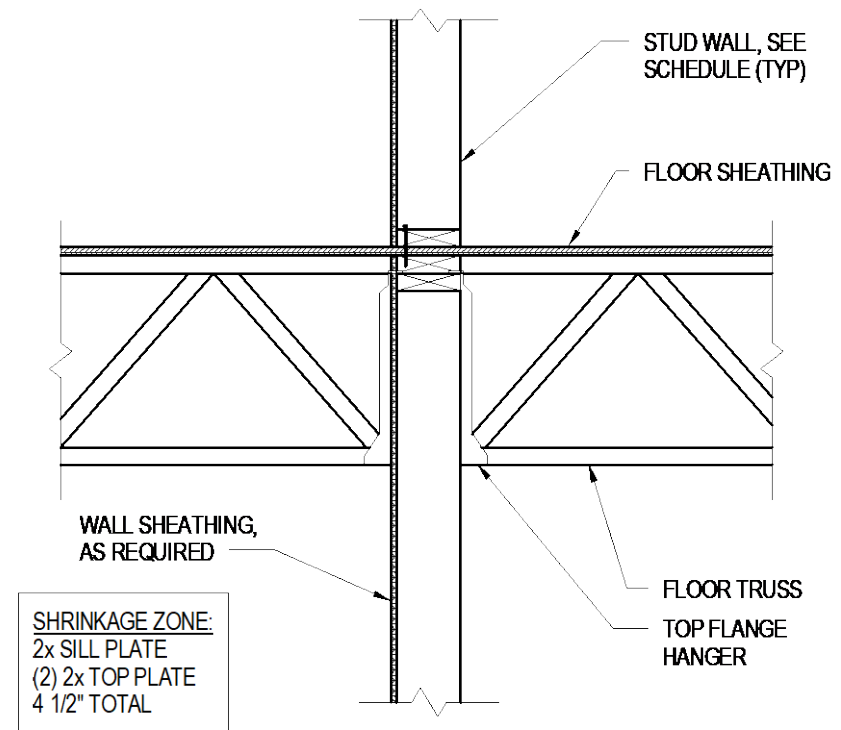
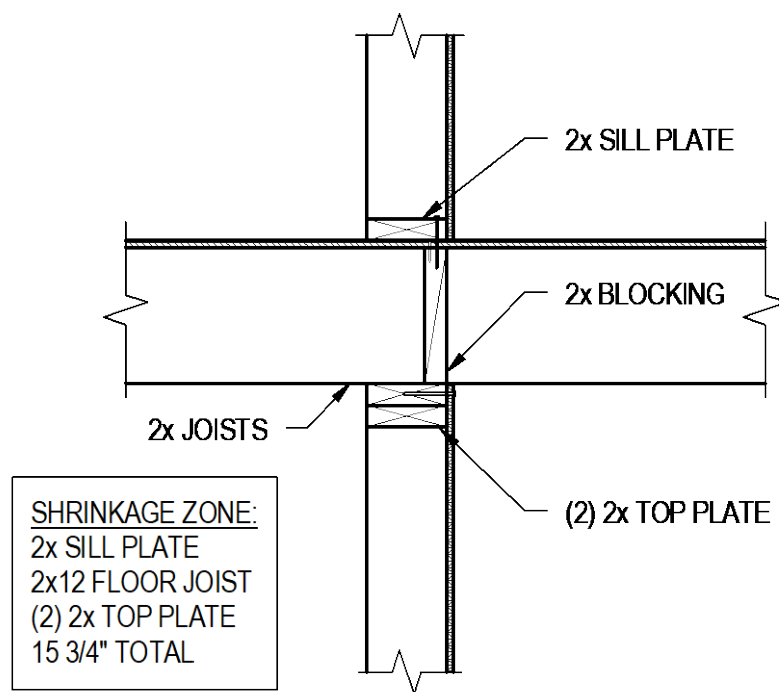
Recalling the three variables that influence amount of shrinkage:

- Installed moisture content (MC)
- In-service equilibrium moisture content (EMC)
- Cumulative thickness of cross-grain wood contributing to shrinkage

As designers, we can impact 2 of these 3 variables

Our specifications and details, hand in hand with on-site protection measures and proper installation, can greatly minimize the magnitude and effects of shrinkage

# Minimizing Shrinkage – Detailing



Images: Schaefer

# Minimizing Shrinkage – Detailing

---

- **Platform Detail:**

- 15.75" Shrinkage Zone
- 19% MC Initial
- 12% EMC

- $S = (0.0025)(15.75'')(12-19) = \mathbf{0.28''}$

- 5-story building: **1.4" total**

- **Semi-Balloon Detail:**

- 4.5" Shrinkage Zone
- 19% MC Initial
- 12% EMC

$$S = (0.0025)(4.5'')(12-19) = \mathbf{0.08''}$$

5-story building: **0.4" total**



# In-Service Moisture Content

Shrinkage will continue to occur linearly until the wood’s equilibrium moisture content (EMC) has been reached.

EMC is the point at which the wood is neither gaining nor losing moisture. However, this is a dynamic equilibrium as it is a function of temperature and relative humidity

USDA FPL “Wood Handbook”

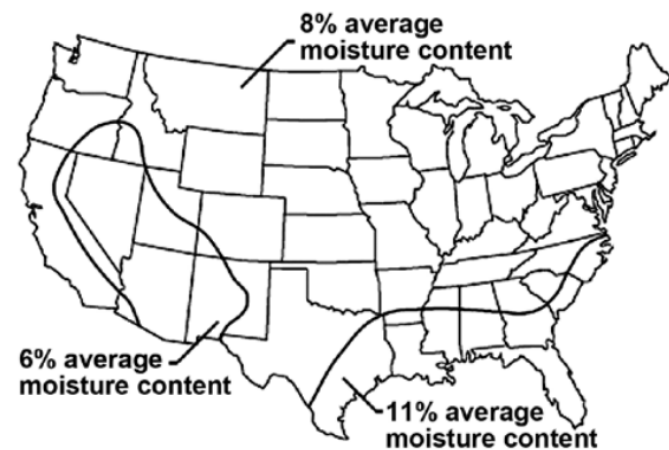


Figure 13–1. Recommended average moisture content for interior use of wood products in various areas of the United States.

WWPA Technical Report 10

Table 1. Average Outdoor and Indoor EMC

Location	Average Outdoor EMC (%)	Average Indoor EMC (%)
Los Angeles, CA	10	9
San Diego, CA	12	10
Twentynine Palms, CA	6	6
San Francisco Bay Area	13	9
Sacramento Valley (CA)	11	8
N. Coast Red. (CA)	14	9
Sierra Nevada (CA)	11	7
San Joaquin Valley (CA)	11	8
Phoenix/Tucson, AZ	7	6

# Differential Movement

---

- **Need to consider differential movement between wood frame elements and other materials that...**
- Expand due to moisture or thermal changes
- Do not change with moisture but do change with thermal fluctuations
- Shrink much less than wood



# Differential Movement

## Wood Framing & Veneer:

- Veneer Type Transitions
- Openings (Sill, Head, Jambs)

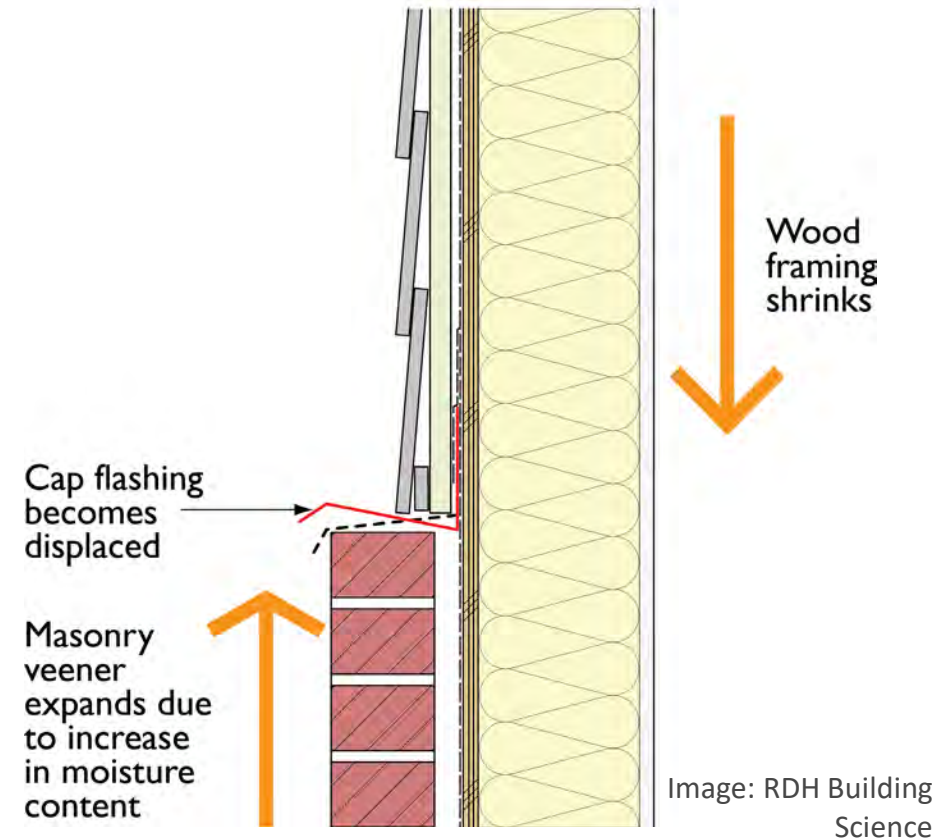


Image: RDH Building Science



# Differential Movement – Veneer Transition

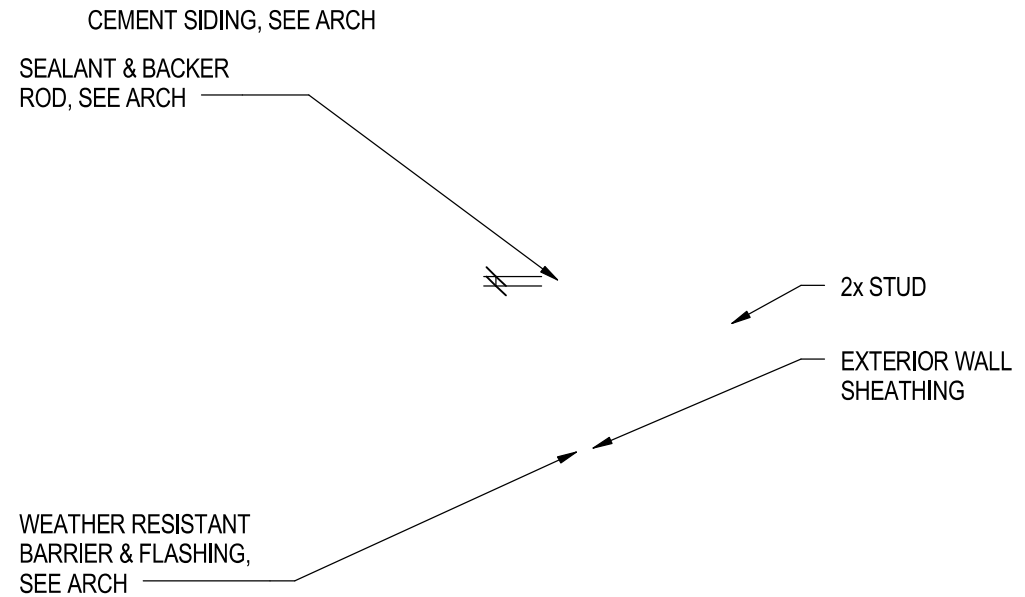


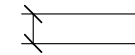
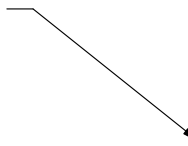
Image: Schaefer

# Differential Movement – Veneer Opening

---



WINDOW, SEE ARCH



2x STUD



THING

Images: Schaefer

# Differential Movement – Veneer Opening

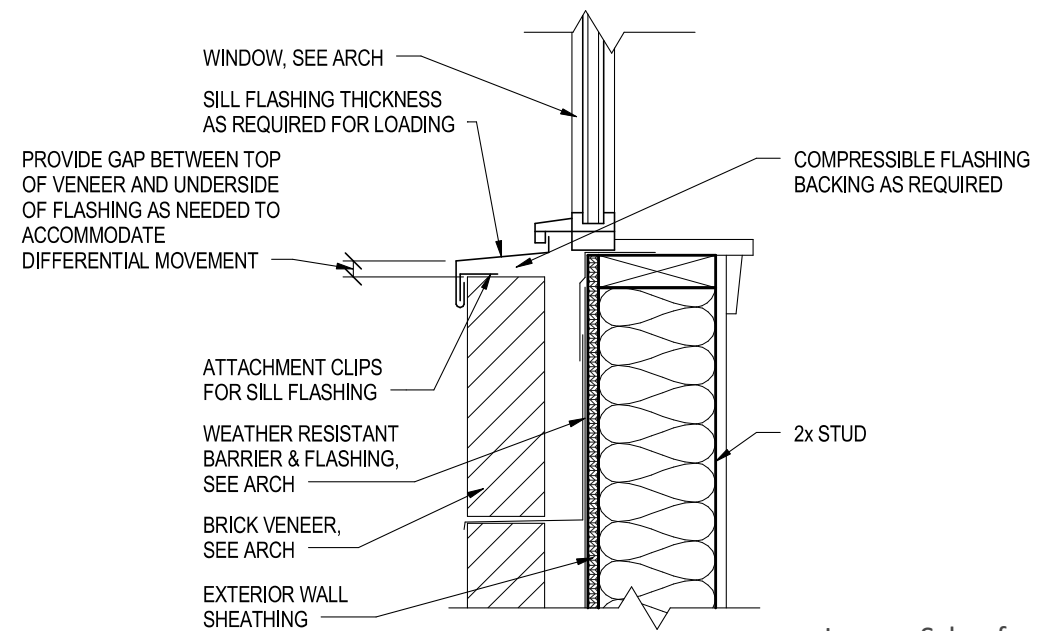


Image: Schaefer



# Differential Movement – Veneer Opening



Image: RDH Building Science

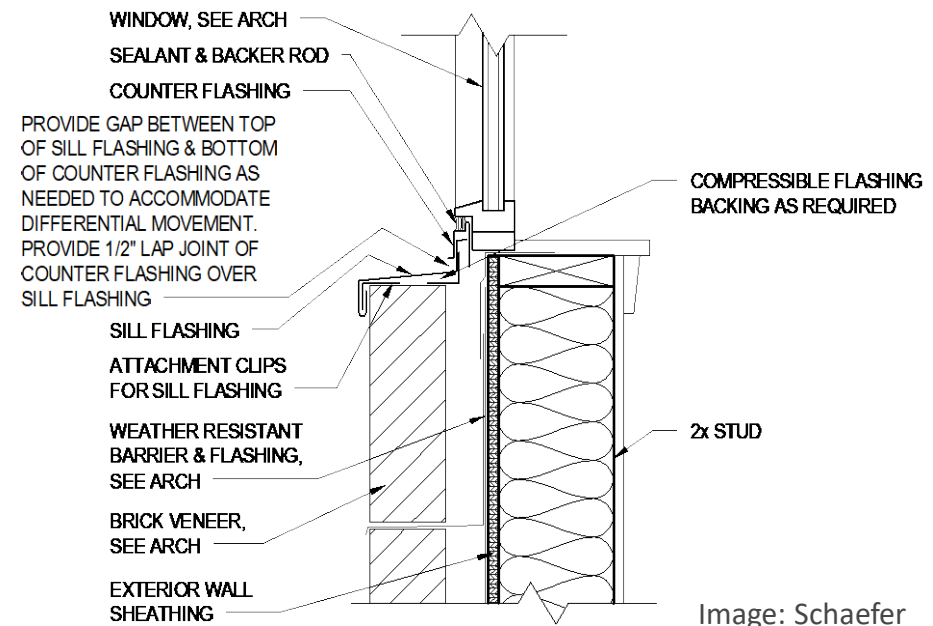


Image: Schaefer

# Differential Movement - MEP

---

MEP main runs often start at base or top of structure, extend throughout height, with horizontal tees at each floor.

Horizontal tees often installed in wood stud partitions



# Differential Movement - MEP

- Vertically slotted holes in studs allow differential movement
- Verify structural adequacy of studs

GAP REQUIRED ABOVE & BELOW FOR DIFFERENTIAL MOVEMENT, SEE GENERAL NOTES FOR ANTICIPATED SHRINKAGE OF WOOD STRUCTURE. CONSULT w/ MEP ENGINEER FOR ANTICIPATED MOVEMENT OF CONDUIT OR PIPE

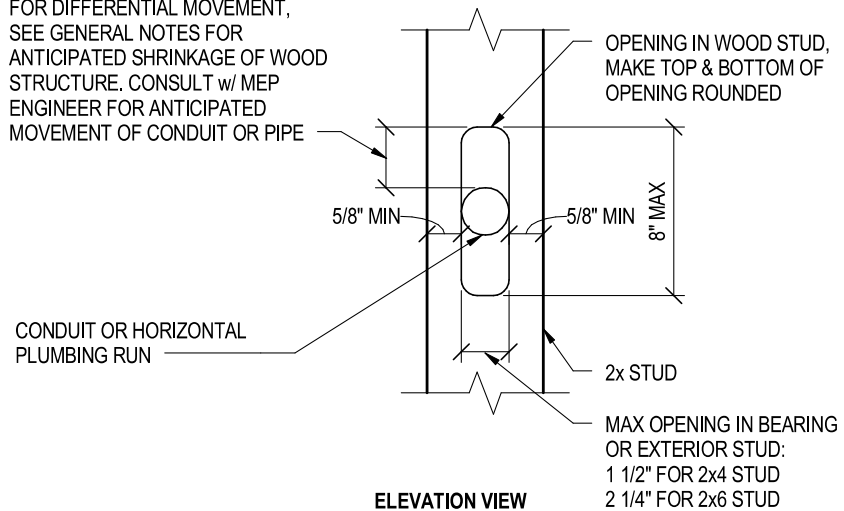


Image: Schaefer



Image: Louisiana-Pacific Corporation

NOTE: ENGINEER SHALL REVIEW LOADING CONDITIONS ON WALL FOR ALLOWABLE SIZE OF PENETRATION



## Oval cutout options for Horizontal Pipe

---



# Differential Movement - MEP

---

Wood framing shrinks, vertical MEP runs remain stationary or expand with thermal fluctuations

Differential movement should be allowed for

Helpful to wait as late as possible after wood framing is erected to install MEP

Note anticipated wood shrinkage at each level on construction documents – MEP contractor should provide methods of accommodating



# Differential Movement - MEP

---

A variety of expansion or slip joint connectors are available – allow vertical MEP runs to move with the wood structure





# Vertical Stacks – Compensation Devices Installed

---



# Shrinkage Resource

Code provisions, detailing options, calculations and more for accommodating differential material movement in wood structures

Free resource at [woodworks.org](http://woodworks.org)



## Accommodating Shrinkage in Multi-Story Wood-Frame Structures

Richard McLain, MS, PE, SE, Technical Director, WoodWorks • Doug Steimle, PE, Principal, Schaefer

In wood-frame buildings of three or more stories, cumulative shrinkage can be significant and have an impact on the function and performance of finishes, openings, mechanical/electrical/plumbing (MEP) systems, and structural connections. However, as more designers look to wood-frame construction to improve the cost and sustainability of their mid-rise projects, many have learned that accommodating wood shrinkage is actually very straightforward.

Wood is hygroscopic, meaning it has the ability to absorb and release moisture. As this occurs, it also has the potential to change dimensionally. Knowing how and where wood shrinks and swells helps designers detail their buildings to minimize related effects.

Wood shrinkage occurs perpendicular to grain, meaning that a solid sawn wood stud or floor joist will shrink in its cross-section dimensions (width and depth). Longitudinal shrinkage is negligible, meaning the length of a stud or floor joist will essentially remain unchanged. In multi-story buildings, wood shrinkage is therefore concentrated at the wall plates, floor and roof joists, and rim boards. Depending on the materials and details used at floor-to-wall and roof-to-wall intersections, shrinkage in light-frame wood construction can range from 0.05 inches to 0.5 inches per level.

This publication will describe procedures for estimating wood shrinkage and provide detailing options that minimize its effects on building performance.

### Wood Science & Shrinkage

Understanding the cellular structure of wood allows us to understand how moisture and wood interact and identify the paths that moisture typically travels. Within wood, moisture is present in two forms: (1) free water in cell cavities, and (2) bound water in cell walls. Simplistically, wood's cellular structure can be imagined as a bundle of drinking straws held together with a rubber band, with each straw representing



Photo: Pollock Shores, Matrix Residential

a longitudinal cell in the wood. Water can be free water stored in the straw cavity or bound water absorbed by the straw walls. At high moisture contents, water exists in both locations. As the wood dries, the free water is released from the cell cavities before the bound water is released from the cell walls. When wood has no free water and yet the cell wall is still saturated, it is said to be at its fiber saturation point (FSP). Imagine a sponge that has just been taken out of a bucket filled with water. As the sponge is lifted from the bucket, water comes out of the pores. When the sponge is squeezed, more water comes out of the pores. The moment when no water can be squeezed out of the sponge but yet it still feels damp is analogous to the FSP. The moisture retained in the sponge is the bound water and water that has been squeezed out is the free water.



Let's Take a Break





# Let's Talk Structure





# Structure and Fire & Life Safety



Credit: Brett Drury

## Can't Live in Separate Bubbles

# Structure and Fire & Life Safety

---

In any project, but particularly wood-frame mid-rise construction, efficiency in structural framing layout, assembly selection and detailing must also account for “architectural” requirements such as:

- Fire-resistance ratings
- Acoustics
- Materials permitted (construction type)

In other words, you’re not just an engineer anymore



Credit: Brett Drury



# Exterior Wall – Bearing vs. Non Bearing

---

Non load-bearing exterior walls may have lower fire resistance rating requirements than bearing walls in certain situations. IBC Chapter 2 defines load bearing walls as:

**[BS] WALL, LOAD-BEARING.** Any wall meeting either of the following classifications:

1. Any metal or wood stud wall that supports more than 100 pounds per linear foot (1459 N/m) of vertical load in addition to its own weight.

**[BS] WALL, NONLOAD-BEARING.** Any wall that is not a *load-bearing wall*.

# Exterior Wall – Bearing vs. Non Bearing

Why is this important? **Fire-Resistance Ratings and \$**

Fire Rating of Structural Elements	IIA	IIB	IIIA	IIIB	IV	VB
IBC Table 601						
• Exterior bearing walls ( <i>hours</i> )	1	0	2	2	2	0
• Interior bearing walls ( <i>hours</i> )	1	0	1	0	1	0
• All other elements ( <i>hours</i> )	1	0	1	0	HT	0
IBC Table 602						
• $X < 10$ feet	1	1	1	1	1	1
• $10 \text{ ft} \leq X < 30$ feet	1	0	1	0	1	0
• $X \geq 30$ feet	0	0	0	0	HT	0

Credit: WoodWorks

## Type III:

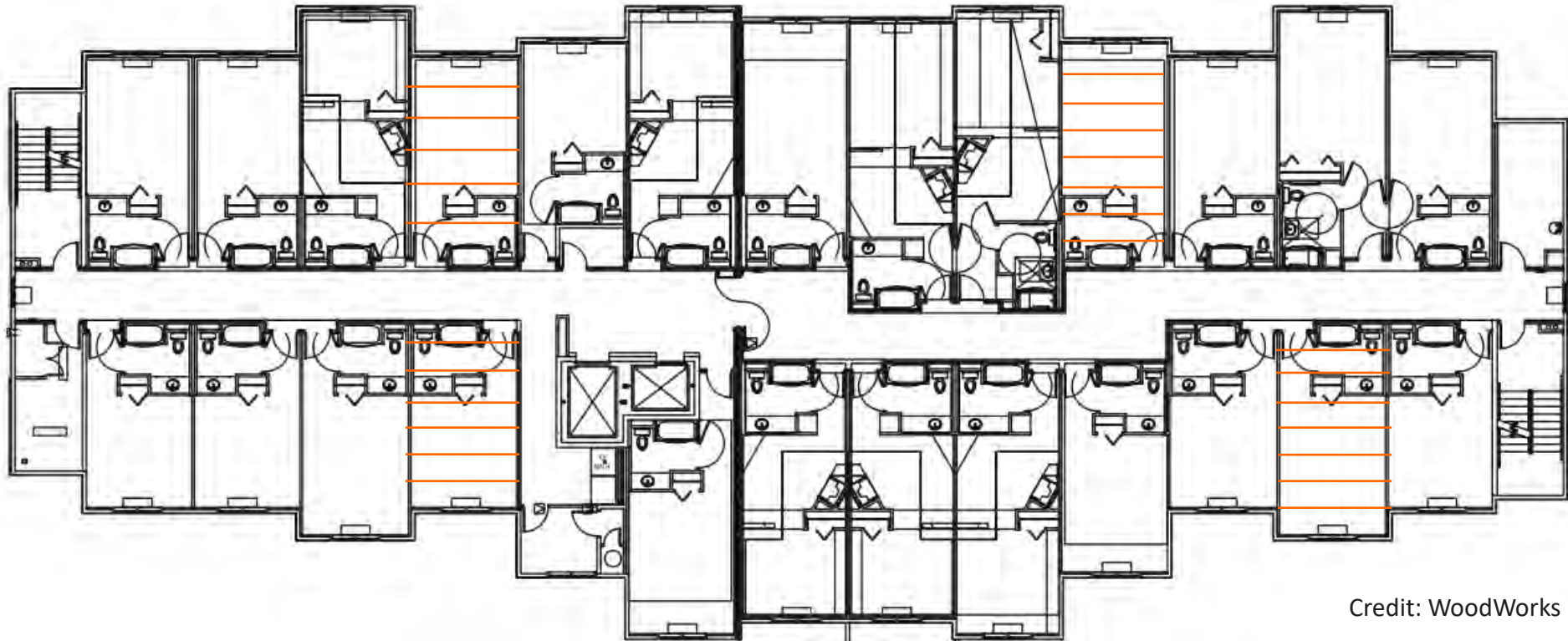
Exterior Bearing Wall = **2-hours**

Exterior non-Bearing Wall = varies but often **0-hours**

# Exterior Walls – Bearing vs. Non-Bearing

---

If framing parallel to long exterior walls is possible, minimizes area of load bearing exterior walls



Credit: WoodWorks



# Type III Exterior Walls – FRT

---

## **Type III Construction - IBC Section 602.3:**

Fire-retardant-treated wood framing complying with Section 2303.2 shall be permitted within exterior wall assemblies of a 2-hour rating or less



Credit: WoodWorks

# Type III Exterior Walls – FRT

---

## Long Span Headers in Type III

**When a multi-ply 2x is inadequate due to load and span, what are the options?**

- FRT EWP availability?
- Non-FRT wood options?
- Non-combustible materials?

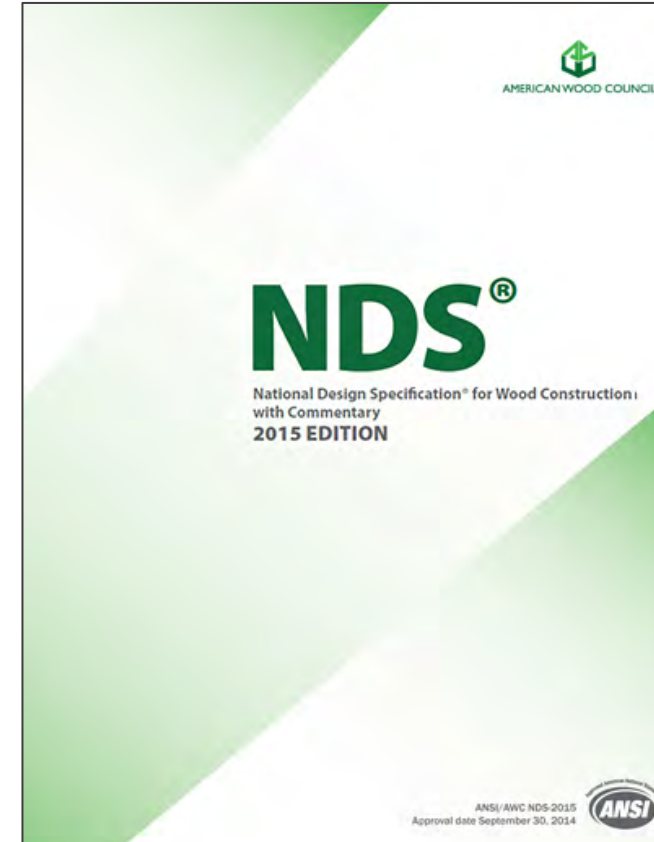


Credit: WoodWorks

# FRT Wood Design Values

---

**NDS 2.3.4:** Adjusted design values, including adjusted connection design values, for lumber and structural glued laminated timber pressure-treated with fire retardant chemicals shall be obtained from the company providing the treatment and redrying service.





### Example FRT manufacturer's ESR reduction values:

**TABLE 2—DESIGN VALUE ADJUSTMENT FACTORS FOR PYRO-GUARD® TREATED LUMBER**

[illegible]

# FRT Wood Design Values

---

## Shear wall capacity reduction typically handled by increasing sheathing thickness

When fire-retardant-treated plywood is used in a shear wall, the thickness must be one standard size thicker than that determined in the tabulated allowable shear values contained in Section 4.3 of ANSI/AWC Special Design Provisions for Wind and Seismic (SDPWS) or as shown in the tables referenced in Section 2306.3 of the IBC (2306.4 of the 2009 and 2006 IBC). Thickness to be used for FRT plywood compared to untreated plywood shear walls are shown below:

<b>FRT Plywood Thickness (inches)</b>	<b>Untreated Plywood Thickness (inches)</b>
$\frac{3}{8}$	$\frac{5}{16}$
$\frac{7}{16}$	$\frac{3}{8}$
$\frac{15}{32}$	$\frac{7}{16}$
$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{15}{32}$

# PT Sole Plate vs FRT Continuity

---

In type III construction with FRT studs, what happens where the sole plate is in contact with concrete?

- FRTW is required
- PT wood is required

FRT contains about 10x borate compound found in PT (borate is water soluble)

Can specify a product tested to do both





# Floor Vibration Design

---



# Structural Floor Design

---



## Common Wood Floor Assembly:

**LW Concrete Topping  
Acoustical Mat  
Wood Floor Sheathing  
Wood Trusses/I-joists  
Batt Insulation  
Resilient Channel  
Gypsum Ceiling**



# Structural Floor Design - Vibration

The code is silent on floor vibration criteria & analysis

TABLE 1604.3  
DEFLECTION LIMITS<sup>a, b, c, h, i</sup>

CONSTRUCTION	<i>L</i>	<i>S</i> or <i>W</i> <sup>f</sup>	<i>D + L</i> <sup>d, g</sup>
Roof members: <sup>e</sup>			
Supporting plaster or stucco ceiling	<i>l</i> /360	<i>l</i> /360	<i>l</i> /240
Supporting nonplaster ceiling	<i>l</i> /240	<i>l</i> /240	<i>l</i> /180
Not supporting ceiling	<i>l</i> /180	<i>l</i> /180	<i>l</i> /120
Floor members	<i>l</i> /360	—	<i>l</i> /240
Exterior walls and interior partitions:			
With plaster or stucco finishes	—	<i>l</i> /360	—
With other brittle finishes	—	<i>l</i> /240	—
With flexible finishes	—	<i>l</i> /120	—
Farm buildings	—	—	<i>l</i> /180
Greenhouses	—	—	<i>l</i> /120



# Structural Floor Design - Vibration

---



AMERICAN WOOD COUNCIL

## Where can I find criteria for vibration control for wood members?

- Dolan and Woeste developed some information on controlling vibration published in *Structural Engineer* magazine.
- APA Technical Note called *Minimizing Floor Vibration by Design and Retrofit*  
<http://www.apawood.org/SearchResults.aspx?q=E710&tid=1>
- *Wood Design Focus* paper by Dolan and Kalkert called "Overview of Proposed Wood Floor Vibration Design Criteria" (Vol. 5, #3).  
[http://www.forestprod.org/buy\\_publications/wood\\_design\\_focus\\_past\\_articles.php#volume5](http://www.forestprod.org/buy_publications/wood_design_focus_past_articles.php#volume5)

# Structural Floor Design - Vibration

## IS A "SPRING IN YOUR STEP" CAUSING PROBLEMS?

June 2007 » Feature Article



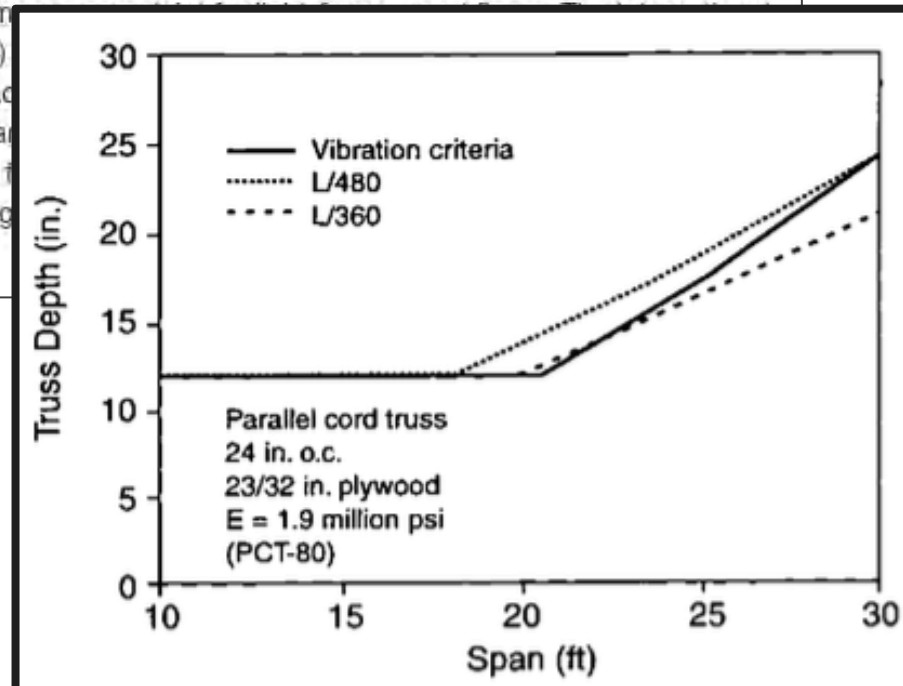
**Annoying vibration is probably the most common performance complaint for light-frame wood floors.**

*Frank Woeste, Ph.D., P.E., and Daniel Dolan, Ph.D., P.E.*

*Recommendations to minimize annoying wood-floor vibrations*

Annoying vibration is probably the most common performance complaint for light-frame wood floors. The International Residential Code Council's 2006 International Residential Code (IRC) addresses this issue, yet the engineer-of-record for a project may face a challenge. An engineer may be engaged to determine the cause of an annoying vibration under the prescriptive provisions of the IRC. While wood floor vibration deserves attention by the design professional at the design stage, it is often impossible to fix.

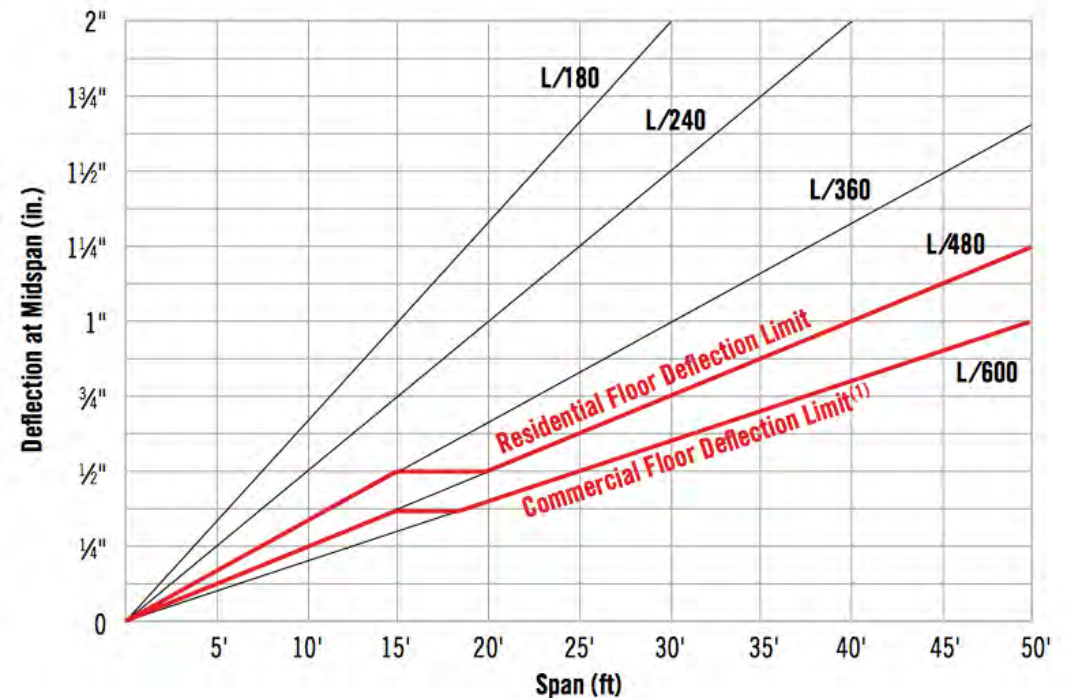
$$f = 1.57 \sqrt{\frac{386EI}{WL^3}} \quad (\text{Equation 1})$$



# Floor Design: Occupant Comfort

## Vibration & Deflection Control

Multi-family floor spans in the 24'-30' range work well from a layout perspective. Floor design of wood members in this span range are often governed by vibration and/or deflection control, not structural capacity.



Live Load Deflection Chart, Courtesy: Redbuilt



# Floor Design: Occupant Comfort

## *Tools available to designers*

### Vibration Analysis: FP Innovations (Spreadsheet available upon request)

**WCTE 2014** Quebec City, Canada August 10-14  
World Conference on Timber Engineering

**NOISE AND VIBRATION CONTROL OF LIGHT FRAME WOOD JOIST FLOORS TOPPED WITH CONCRETE**

**Lin Hu<sup>1</sup>, Mohammad Mohammad<sup>2</sup> and Sylvain Gagnon<sup>3</sup>**

**ABSTRACT:** Light frame wood joist floors have reduced sound insulation because of their lightweight nature. The popular solution to the noise transmission problem is to float a 38mm or thicker cementitious topping over the floor. Although this solution efficiently improves sound insulation of light frame floors, it makes normal walk-induced vibrations more perceivable than with the floors without the topping. Currently, more than half of the housing market in Canada is multi-family construction. As more multi-family light frame wood buildings are being built, more and more complaints about excessive feelable vibrations through concrete topped wood joist floors are being received. This paper explains the myths behind this phenomenon, and more importantly, sheds some lights on available solutions.

**KEYWORDS:** Light frame, multi-family building, wood joist floor, concrete topping, noise control, vibration control

### Joist Manufacturer's Rating Systems



[Home](#) > [All Expert Tips](#)[SHARE](#)

## What methods exist for checking floor vibration of light-frame wood structures?

Vibration of light-frame wood floor construction can be a significant occupant comfort issue. However, achieving acceptable levels of floor vibration is not a code requirement. As such, it is possible to design a code-compliant wood floor structure that produces annoying or unacceptable levels of vibration due to standard foot traffic.

A variety of factors can affect a floor's vibration performance, including:

- Presence of concrete topping or other massing materials
- Thickness/stiffness of floor sheathing
- Stiffness, spacing and span of floor joists/trusses
- Presence, size and spacing of blocking/bridging/strong backs
- Presence of direct-applied ceiling
- Stiffness of joist supporting elements (i.e., beams, bearing walls)
- Presence of partition walls

Several vibration analysis methods have been published, each of which takes into account some or all of these variables.



<http://www.woodworks.org/ask-an-expert/>

[View All Expert Tips](#)

### Project Assistance

Our technical experts offer free project support from design through construction, on issues ranging from allowable heights and areas to structural design, lateral systems and fire- or acoustical-rated assemblies.

[Get Assistance >](#)

### Ask an Expert

**Q:** When is blocking/bracing within wood-frame walls required? What is considered adequate bracing for wood wall studs in their weak axis?

**A:** Wood studs used in light-frame wall construction may require horizontally-oriented blocking for a number of reasons—including blocking at shear panel edges, fire blocking, and buckling restraint when subject to axial loads. **Structural Blocking Purposes Blocking to Reduce Stud Slenderness Ratio Section 3**

[- Learn More](#)[Have a question? Email Us >](#)

### Feature Project







Stacked Bearing Wall Design



# Bearing Wall Studs: Stacking Loads

---

In mid-rise structures, bearing wall loads accumulate – may result in increased stud requirements at lower levels

Example: 5 Story Building, Exterior Bearing Wall Supports 28' Span Trusses

Roof: DL = 20 psf, SL = 40 psf

Floor: DL = 30 psf, LL = 40 psf

Wall: DL = 10 psf

Total Bearing Wall Load at  
Lowest Level = 4650 plf or  
6200 lbs per stud @ 16" o.c.

Need 2-2x6 studs @ 16" o.c.



# Bearing Wall Studs: Stacking Loads

---

Options for lower level, stacked bearing wall studs:

- Specify SP or DF plates – up to 40% increase in allowable loads
  - $F_c \text{ perp} = 565 \text{ psi to } 625 \text{ psi}$
- Specify LSL or LVL plates – 75% increase in capacity
- Decrease stud spacing from 16" o.c. to 12" o.c. - 33% increase in capacity
- Double studs – 100% increase in capacity
- Increase the depth of the wall – 2x6 at upper, 2x8 at lower
- Add interior bearing walls at lower levels



[Home](#) > [All Expert Tips](#)[Tell a Friend](#)

## Can live load reduction be used on wood-frame bearing walls?

ASCE 7-10, Section 4.7 permits reduction of live loads on certain structural members that have influence areas of at least 400 sf. ASCE 7-10 defines influence area as  $K_{LL}A_T$  where  $K_{LL}$  is a live load element factor given in Table 4-2 and  $A_T$  is the member's tributary area. Studies have shown that, as a member's influence area increases, the likelihood that the member will experience the full design live load over its entire tributary area decreases. Due to this, ASCE 7-10 equation 4.7-1 can be used to calculate a reduced uniform live load. This reduced live load is not permitted to be less than 50% of the unreduced live load from a single floor, or not less than 40% of the unreduced live load from multiple floors.

When applied to repetitive framing walls, the prevailing consensus in the engineering community is that live load reduction is intended for an individual element—e.g., a header or single stud—and not for the total load on the bearing wall system (for an example, see [this article](#)). Few individual members in wood-frame bearing walls will have an influence of at least 400 sf, indicating that live load reduction would not apply. However, should the minimum influence area for an individual element within the wall be reached, a reduction may apply. Rationally, many would consider it excessive to assume that the bearing wall studs on the lowest level of a 4- or 5-story wood-frame building would see 100% of the design live load from all supported levels simultaneously. However, ASCE 7-10 only permits a reduction of design live loads if the 400 sf influence area is reached.





# Bearing Wall Studs: Stacking Loads

---

If Type III Exterior Walls:

Specify the FRT treatment with the lowest  $F_c$  perp reduction.

Manufacturers reduction values can vary between 5% and 13%



# Bearing Wall Design

---





# Bearing Wall Design

---



Does a double top plate function as a net 3" thick member? Or two individual 1.5" thick members?



# Bearing Wall Design

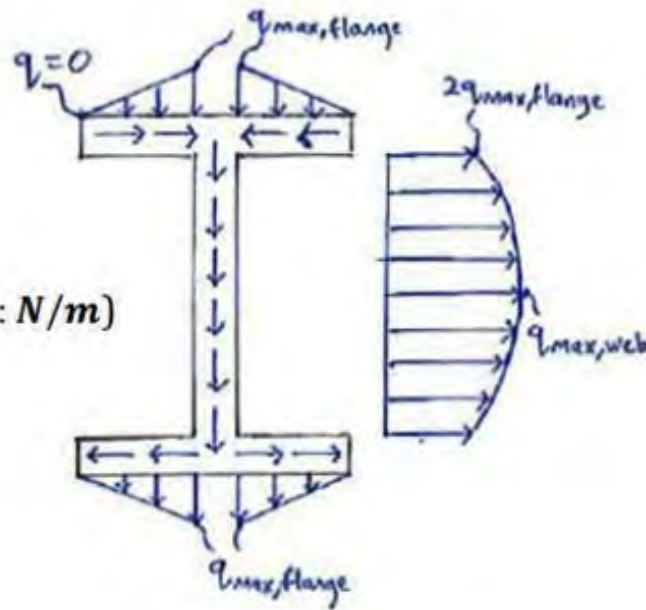
- Shear flow equations assume rigid connections between members.
- Very difficult to justify this with common dowel fasteners (nailed plate to plate connection)

Shear flow

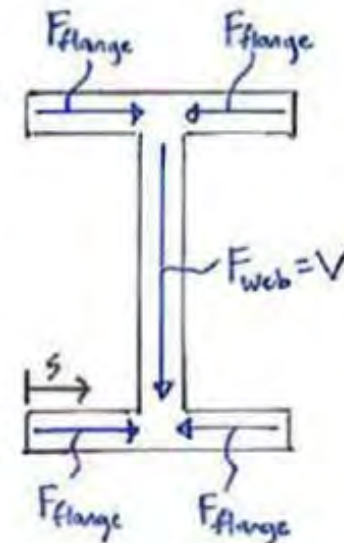
Formula:

$$q = \frac{VQ}{I}$$

(Units:  $N/m$ )



$\approx$



# Bearing Wall Design

---

- General consensus is to assume two plates act independently. Half load goes to each (equal deflection)
- A 2-2x6 SPF top plate with studs at 16" o.c. has a truss reaction capacity of approximately 1,000 to 1,400 lb depending on load location



Credit: WoodWorks

# Non-Bearing Wall Design

---



Credit: WoodWorks



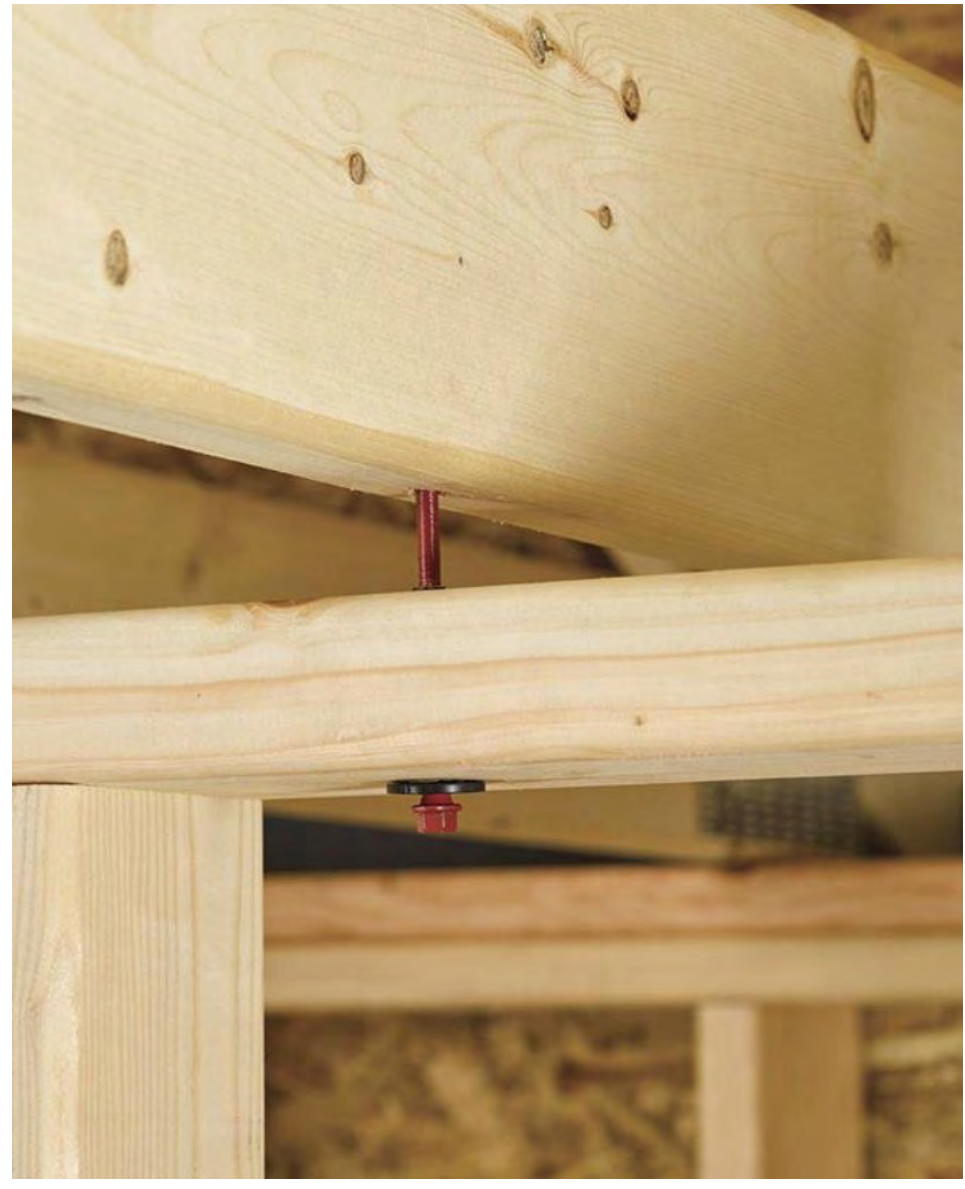




# Shear Wall to Podium Slab Interface

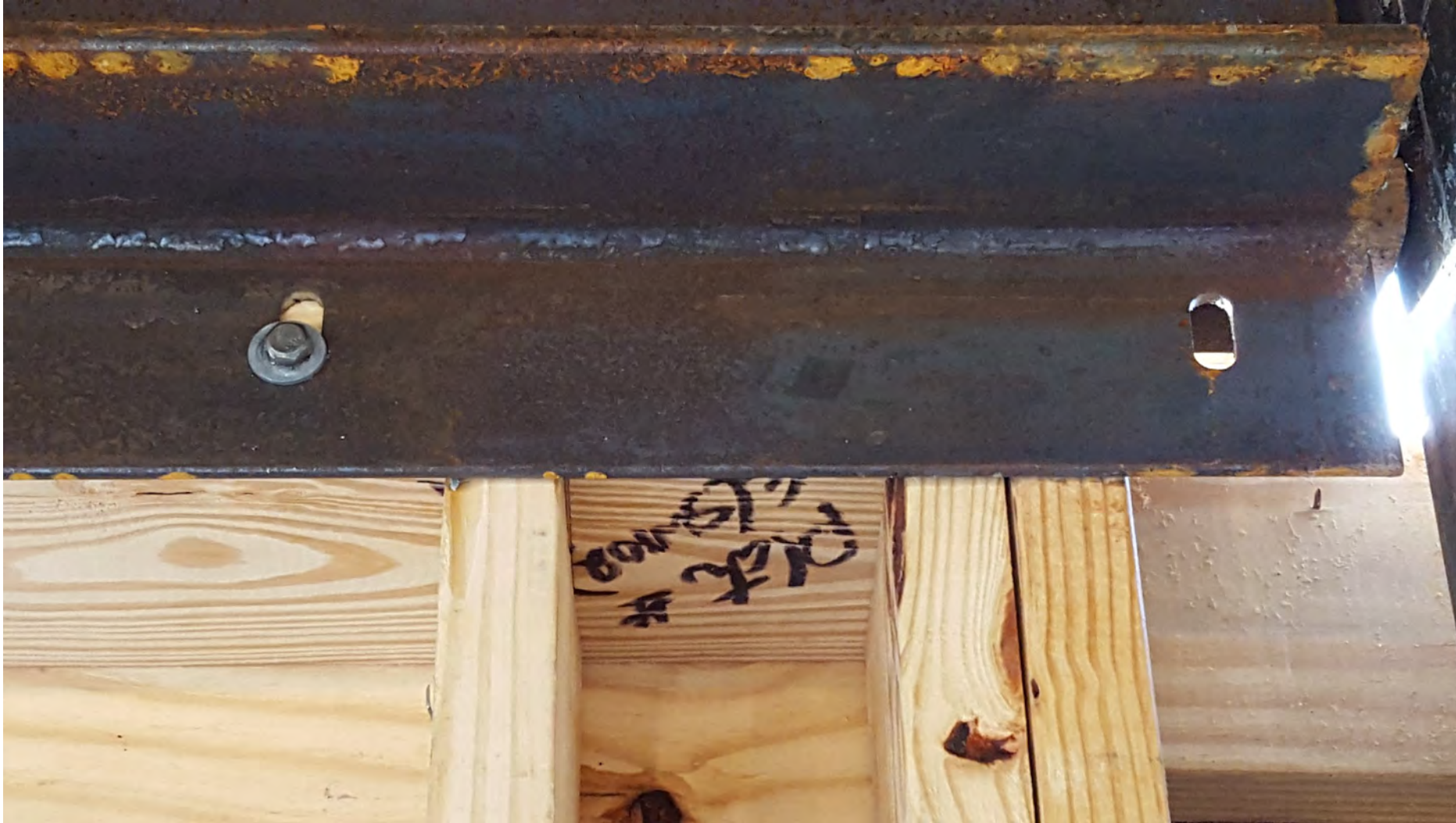


Credit: Fasten Master



# Shear Wall to Podium Slab Interface


---



Credit: WoodWorks



[Home](#) > [All Expert Tips](#)

 [Tell a Friend](#)

## What are the options for detailing non-bearing wood partition walls to the underside of floor or roof framing?

In many wood-frame multi-family and commercial buildings, building layouts result in structural floor and roof spans in the range of 15 feet to 30 feet for floors and much longer for roofs. However, interior partition walls are often required to split interior spaces into separate rooms or units. Structural engineers commonly assume that interior partition walls do not act as load-bearing elements, either due to the potential for future partition re-arrangement or structural inefficiency associated with close support spacings. To avoid issues with load resistance at partition walls that were not intended to act as structural elements, careful detailing is required at the intersection of the top of partition and underside of floor or roof framing.

Reasons for ensuring that load transfer to these partition walls does not occur include avoiding partition wall load-bearing inadequacy and altered shear and moment forces in the floor or roof trusses or joists. Although multiple support locations along a framing system may seem like a positive thing, issues



# Wall Blocking Requirements

---





# Wall Blocking Requirements

---

- When do you need blocking?
- What is the required blocking capacity?
- What is the required blocking size and orientation?
- Does blocking depth need to match wall stud depth?
- What about unique conditions like staggered stud walls?





# Wall Blocking Requirements

---

- Slenderness ratio limits
- Weak axis stud buckling
- Shearwall panel edge blocking
- Fire blocking

## NDS Appendix A.11.3:

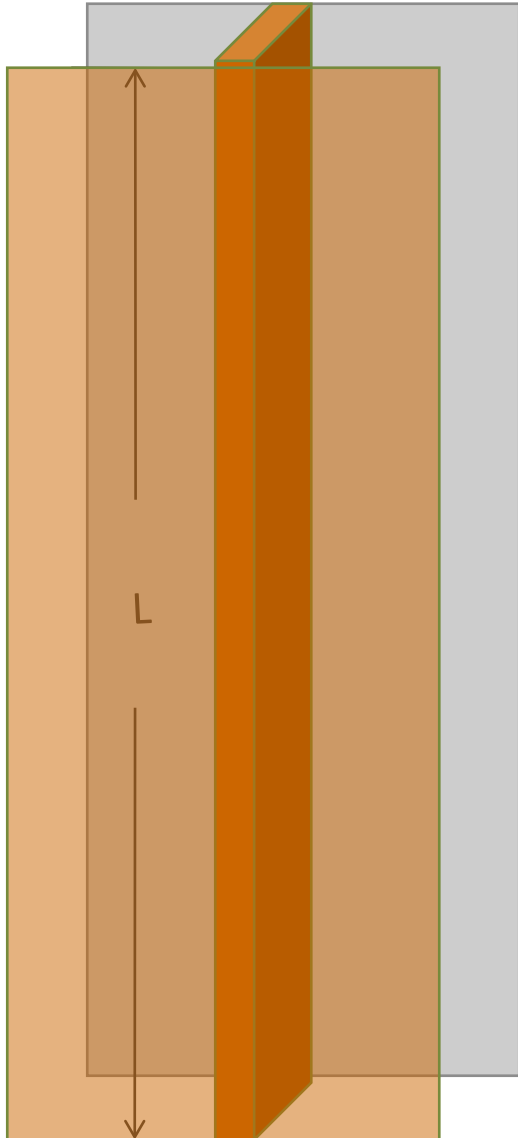
*When stud walls in light-frame construction are adequately sheathed on at least one side, the depth, rather than breadth of the stud, shall be permitted to be taken as the least dimension in calculating the  $l_e/d$  ratio. The sheathing shall be shown by experience to provide lateral support and shall be adequately fastened.*



Credit: WoodWorks

# Wall Blocking Requirements

---



NDS Commentary:

“Experience has shown that any code allowed thickness of gypsum board, hardwood plywood, or other interior finish adequately fastened directly to studs will provide adequate lateral support of the stud across its thickness irrespective of the type or thickness of exterior sheathing and/or finish used.”

# Acoustical Design

---

Noise

Acoustics

Sound Pollution



Whatever you call it, it all comes down to one thing:  
**Occupant Comfort**



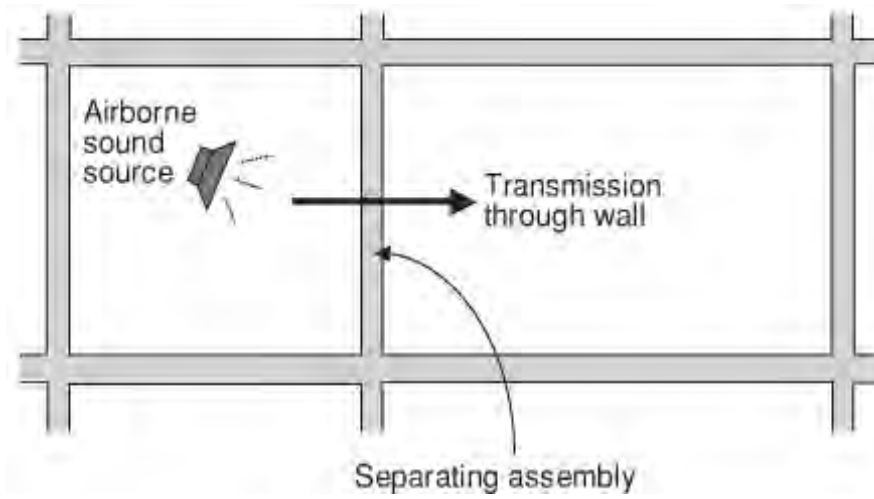
# Acoustical Design

---

## Air-Borne Sound:

### Sound Transmission Class (STC)

- Measures how effectively an assembly isolates air-borne sound and reduces the level that passes from one side to the other
- Applies to walls and floor/ceiling assemblies



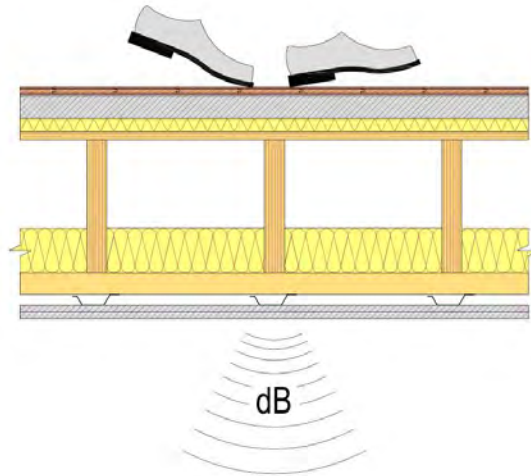
# Acoustical Design

---

## Structure-borne sound:

### **Impact Insulation Class (IIC)**

- Evaluates how effectively an assembly blocks impact sound from passing through it
- Only applies to floor/ceiling assemblies



# Acoustical Design

---

Code requirements only address residential occupancies:

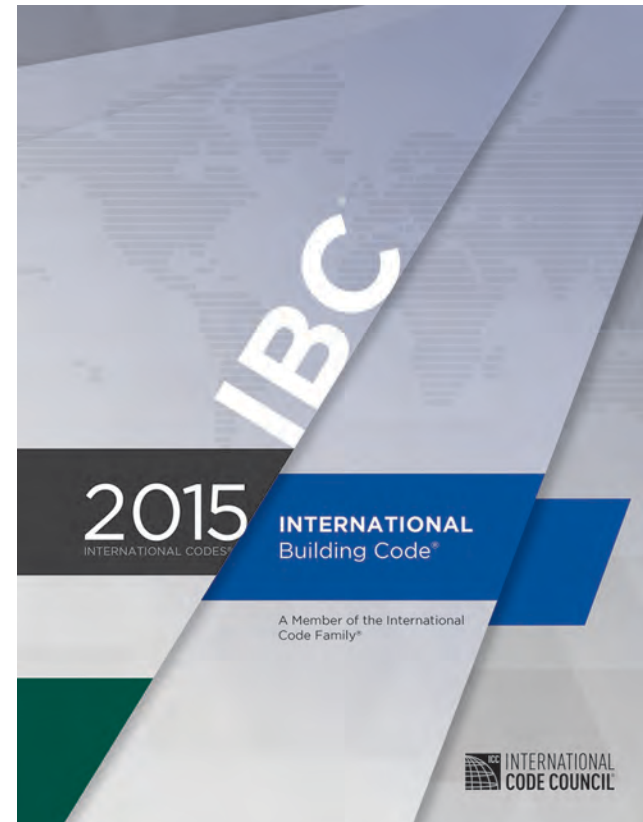
For unit to unit or unit to public or service areas:

**Min. STC of 50 (45 if field tested):**

- Walls, Partitions, and Floor/Ceiling Assemblies

**Min. IIC of 50 (45 if field tested) for:**

- Floor/Ceiling Assemblies





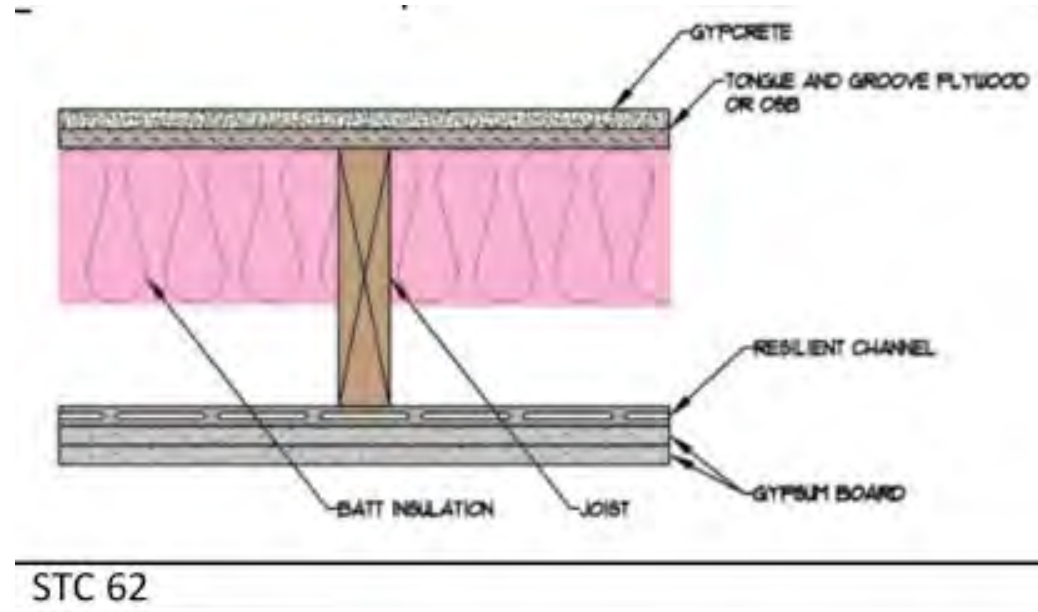
# Acoustical Design

---

When does structure impact the acoustical performance of a wall or floor assembly?

**Regardless of the structural materials used in a wall or floor ceiling assembly, there are 3 effective methods of improving acoustical performance:**

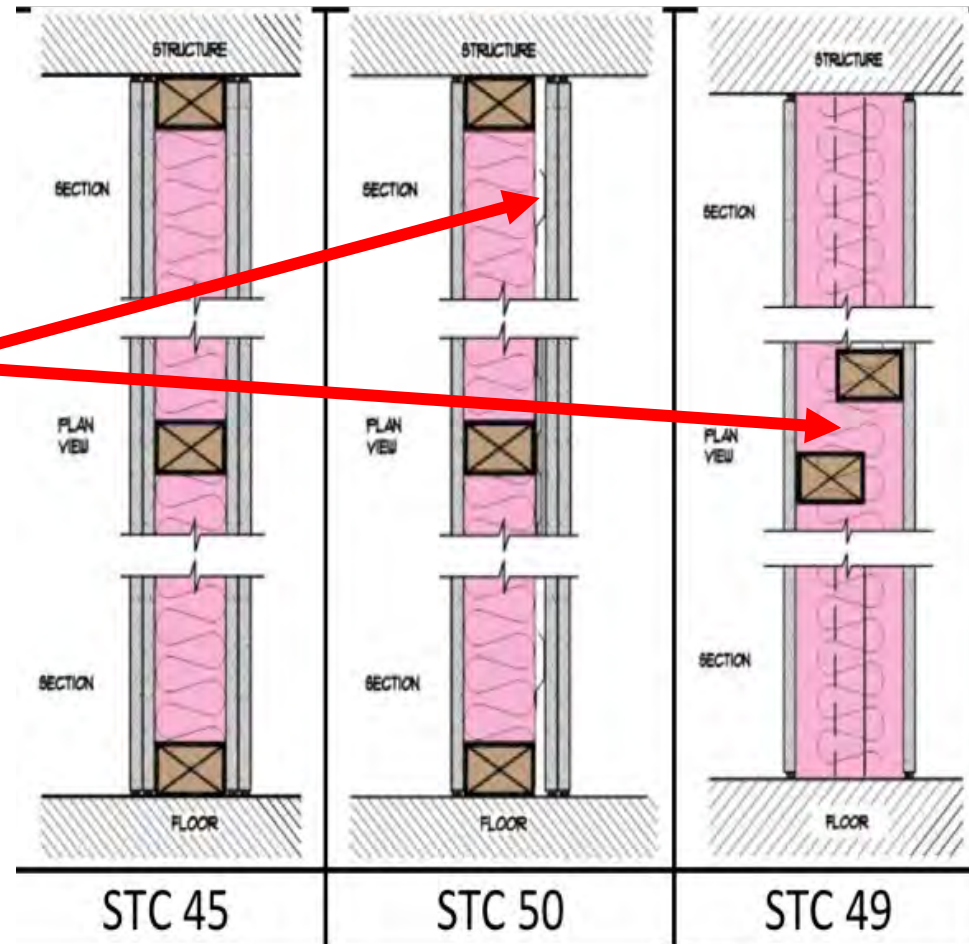
1. Add Mass
2. Add noise barriers
3. Add decouplers



# Acoustical Design

What does this look like in typical wood-frame construction:

1. Add Mass
2. Add noise barriers
3. Add decouplers

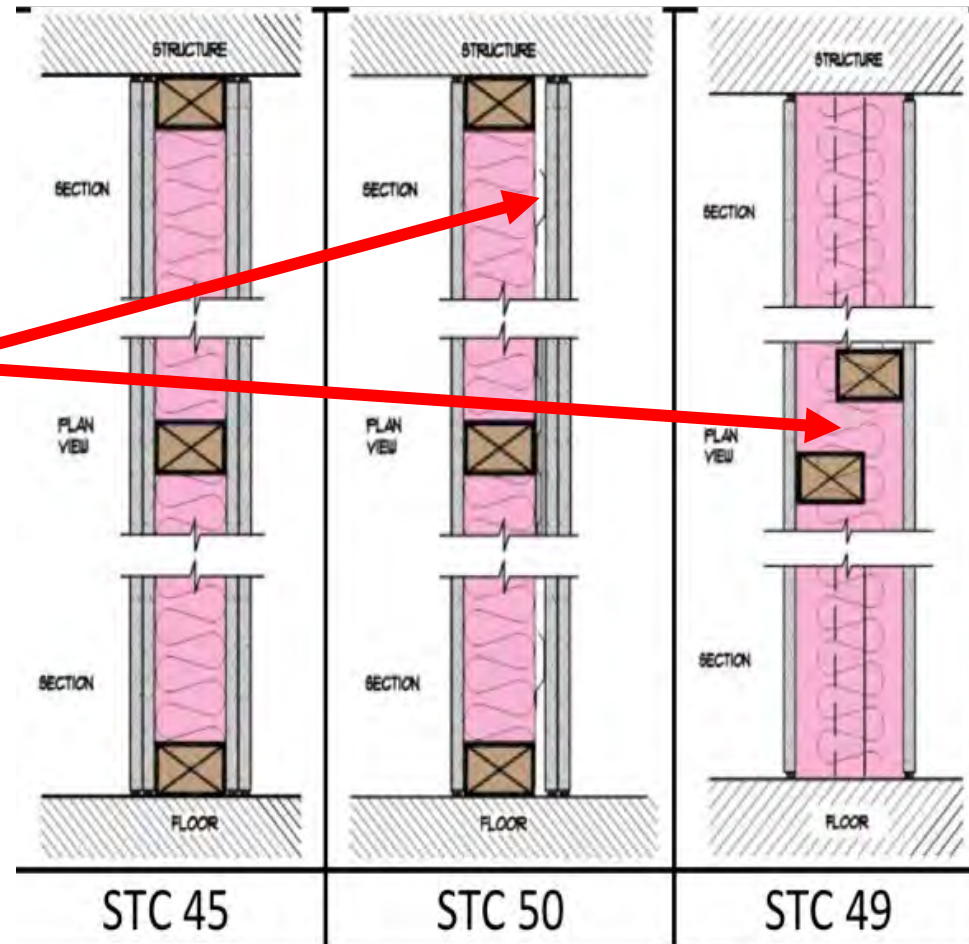


# Acoustical Design

What does this look like in typical wood-frame construction:

1. Add Mass
2. Add noise barriers
3. Add decouplers

Make sure that structural elements don't defeat the purpose of these, especially decouplers





# Acoustical Design

---

- My interior, acoustically rated wall also needs to be a shearwall (think unit demising wall)
- Can I add wood structural panels to an acoustically tested wall?

Yes, but  
placement is  
very important!

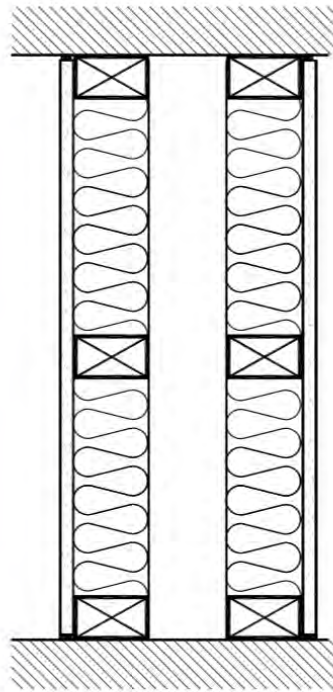


Credit: WoodWorks

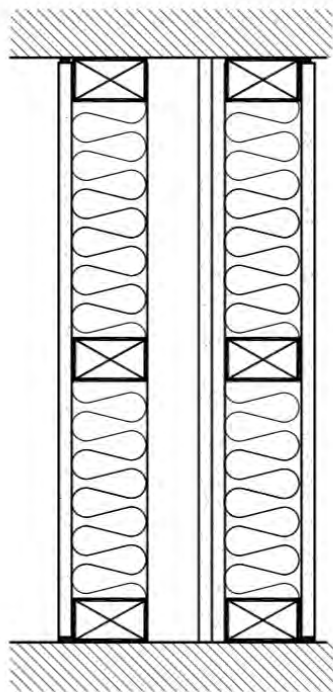
# Acoustical Design

**FIGURE 6**

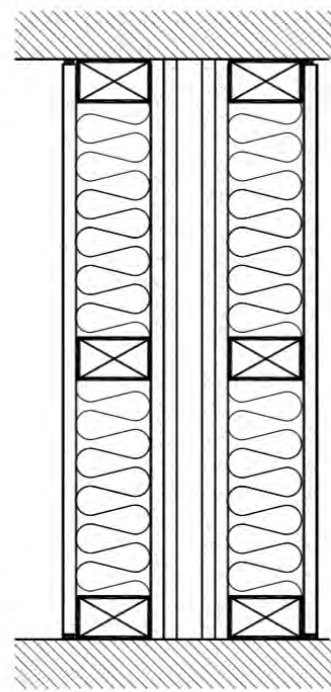
Effect of Sheathing Placement on Acoustical Performance (Plan View)



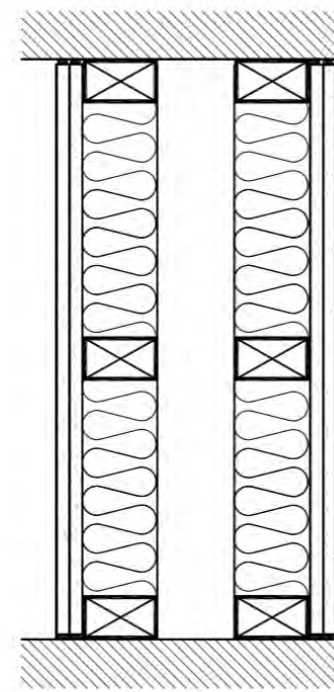
STC 58



STC 53



STC 48

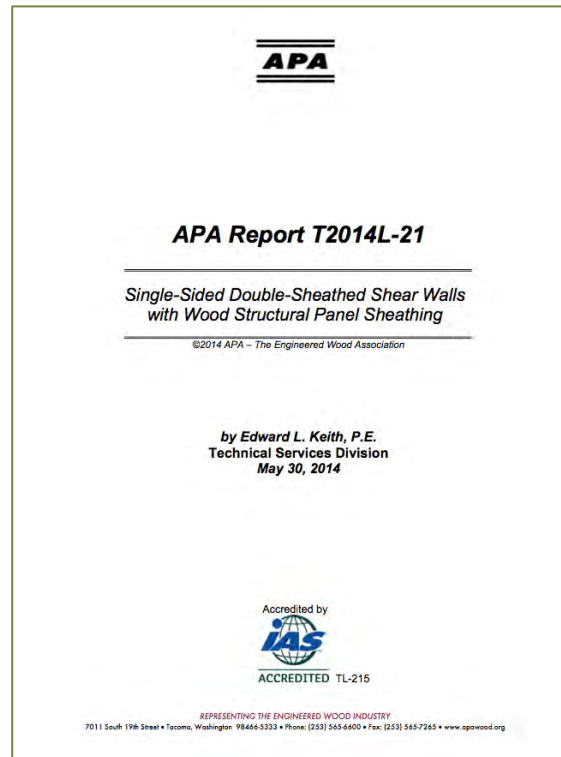


STC 63

# Acoustical Design

---

- For walls with resilient channels, put WSP on opposite side of wall
- For highly loaded shearwalls, can use double layer of sheathing on same side of wall





# Acoustical Design

---

- Staggered stud wall condition:
- Blocking bridges finish on one side of wall to studs on opposite side, defeats purpose.
- Solution: use flat blocking in wall (wide face against WSP)

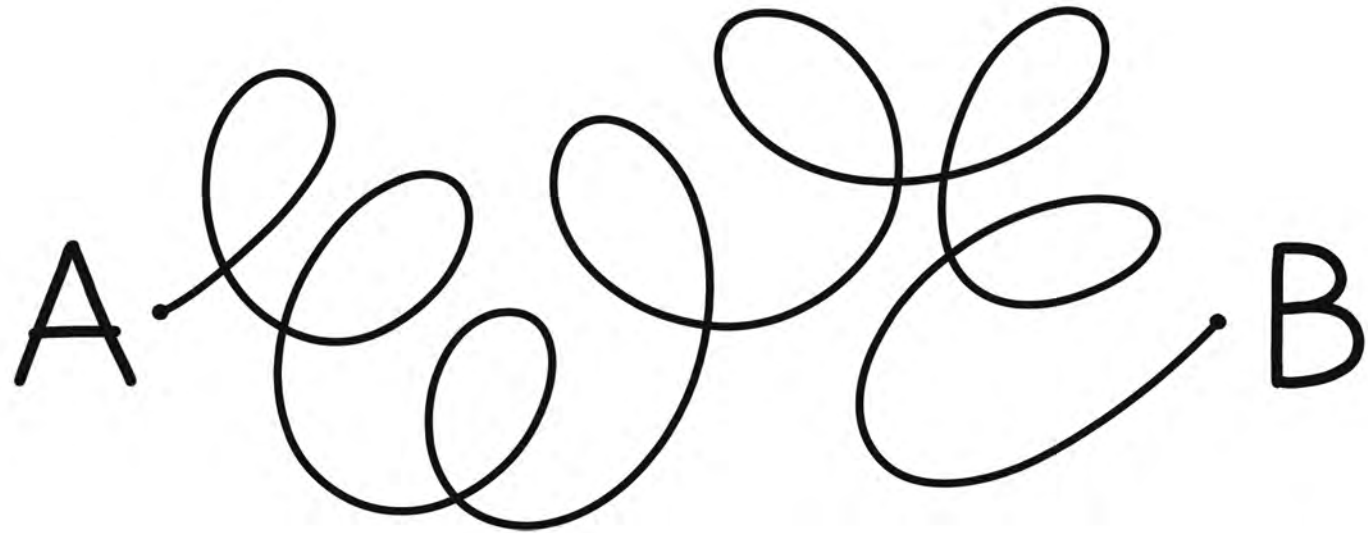




# Lateral Design Topics



# Following the load...





# Load Path Continuity

---

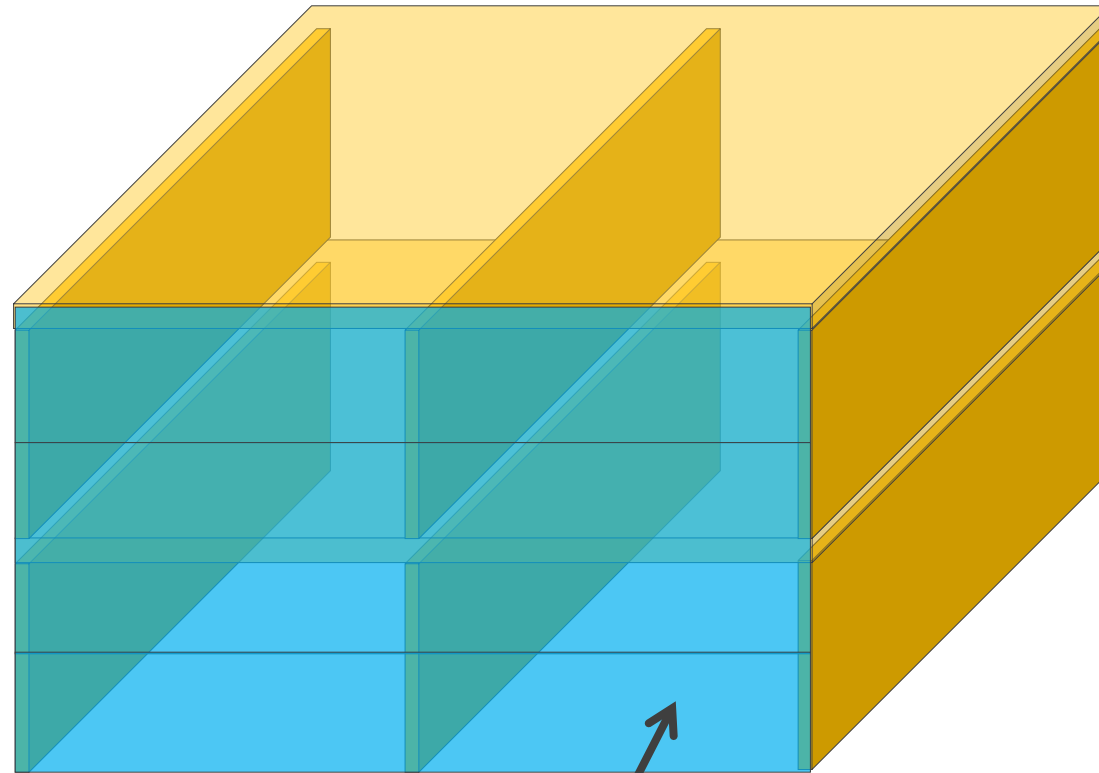


Karuna I  
Holst Architecture

Photo: Terry Malone

# Multi-Story Wind Load Design

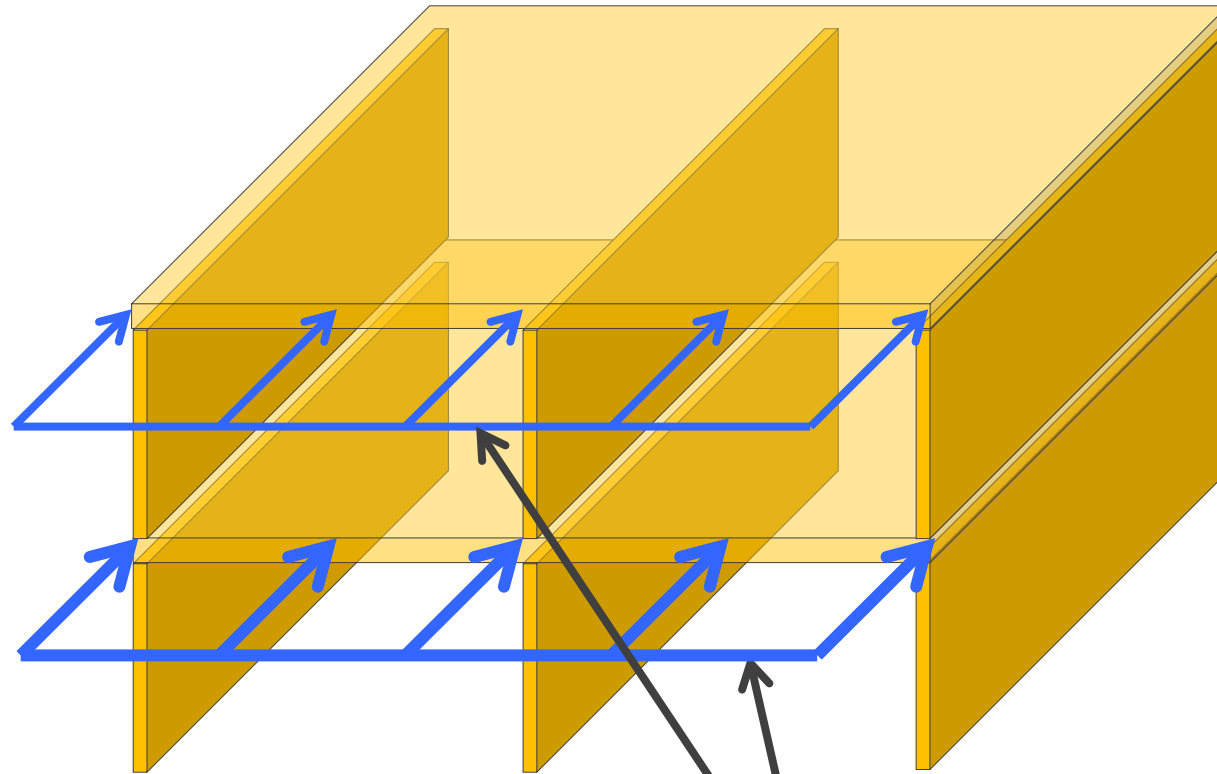
---



**WIND SURFACE  
LOADS ON WALLS**

# Multi-Story Wind Load Design

---

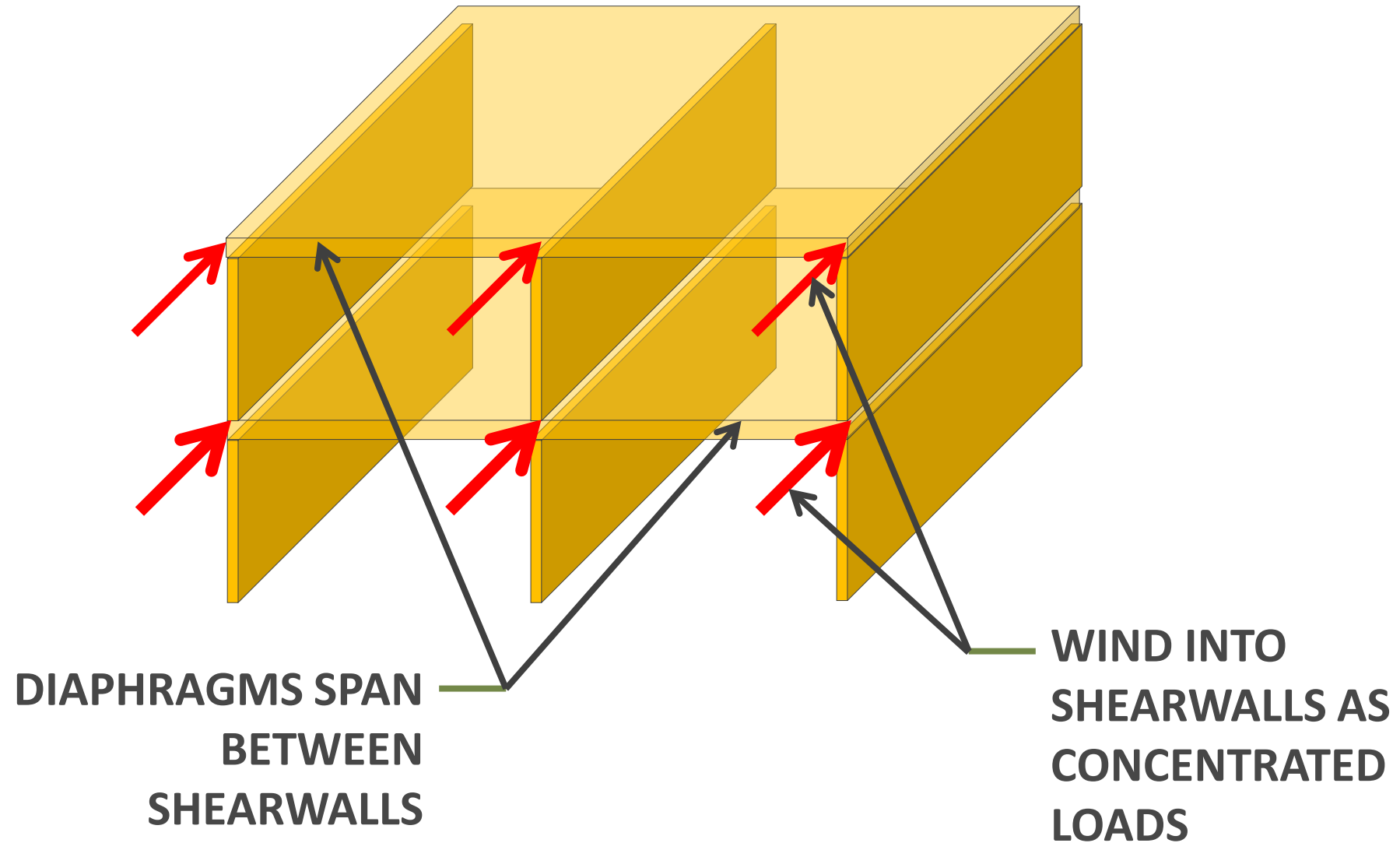


**WIND INTO DIAPHRAGMS AS  
UNIFORM LINEAR LOADS**



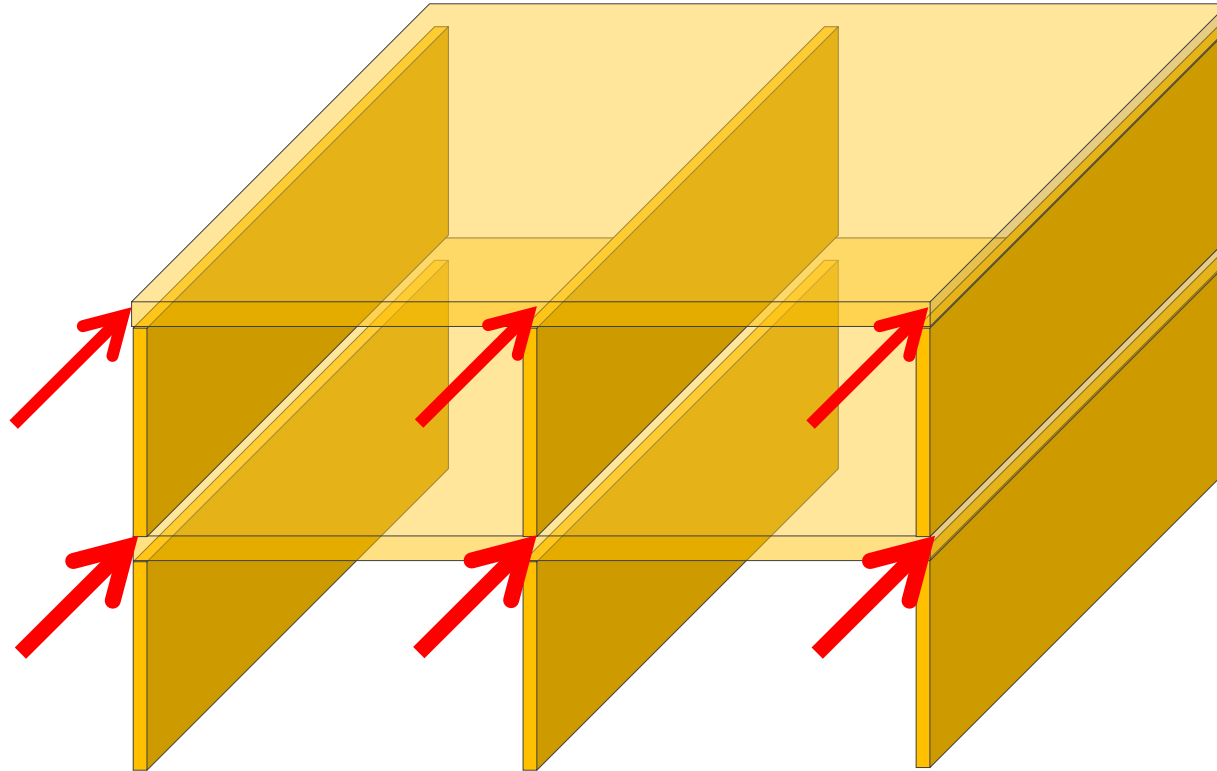
# Multi-Story Wind Load Design

---



# Multi-Story Wind Load Design

---



**DIAPHRAGM WIND FORCES DO  
NOT ACCUMULATE-THEY ARE  
ISOLATED AT EACH LEVEL**

**SHEARWALL WIND FORCES  
DO ACCUMULATE-UPPER  
LEVEL FORCES ADD TO  
LOWER LEVEL FORCES**

# Multi-Story Wind Design

---



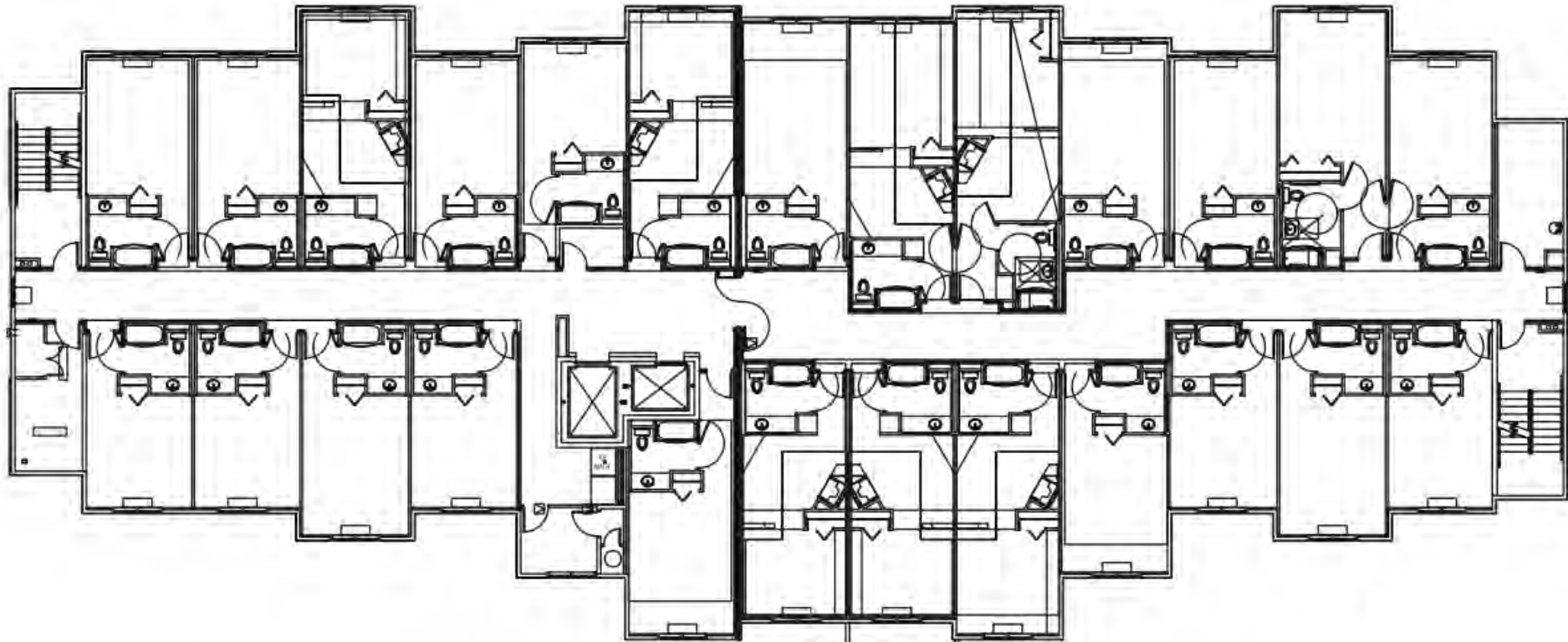
Elevation

Source: WoodWorks Five-Story Wood-Frame  
Structure over Podium Slab Design Example



# Multi-Story Wind Design

---

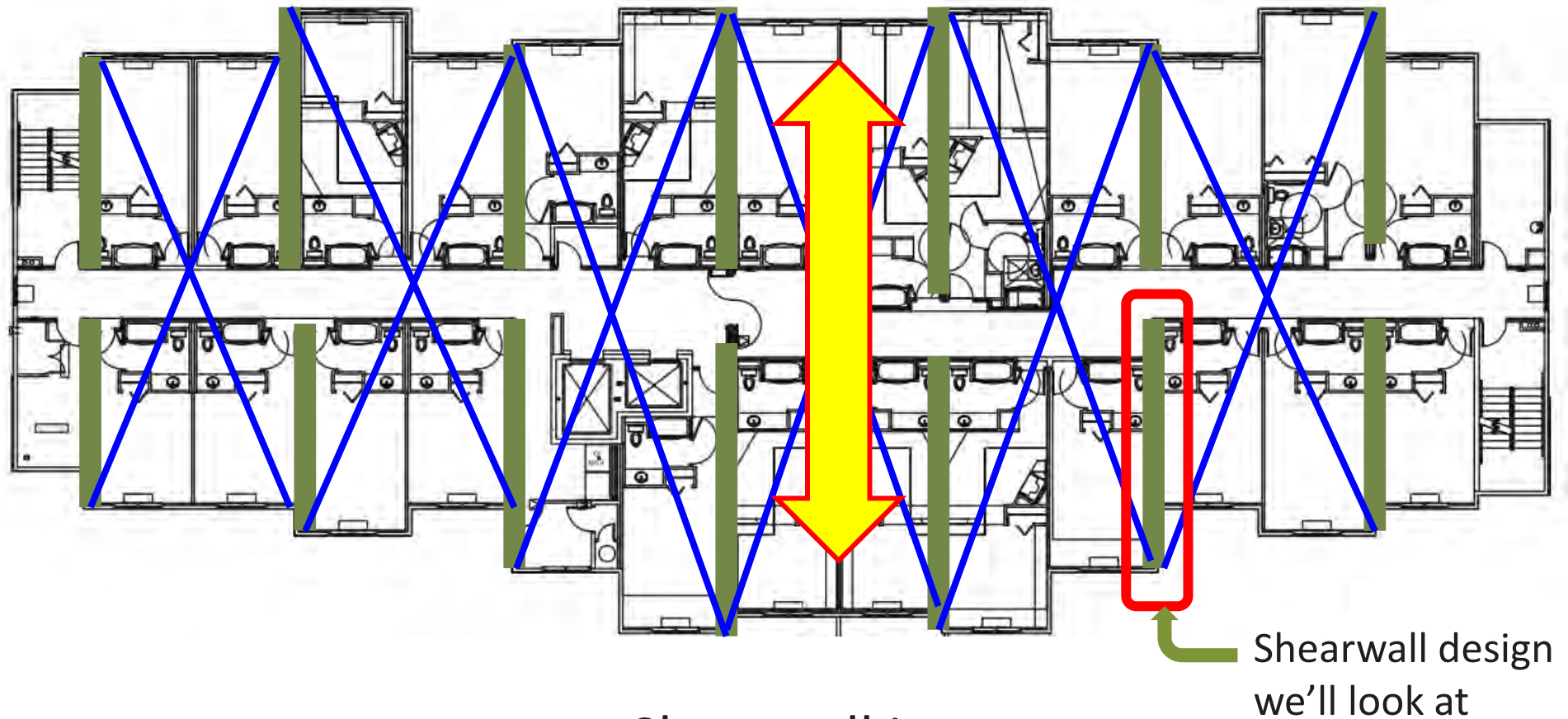


Floor Plan

Source: WoodWorks Five-Story Wood-Frame  
Structure over Podium Slab Design Example

# Multi-Story Wind Design

---

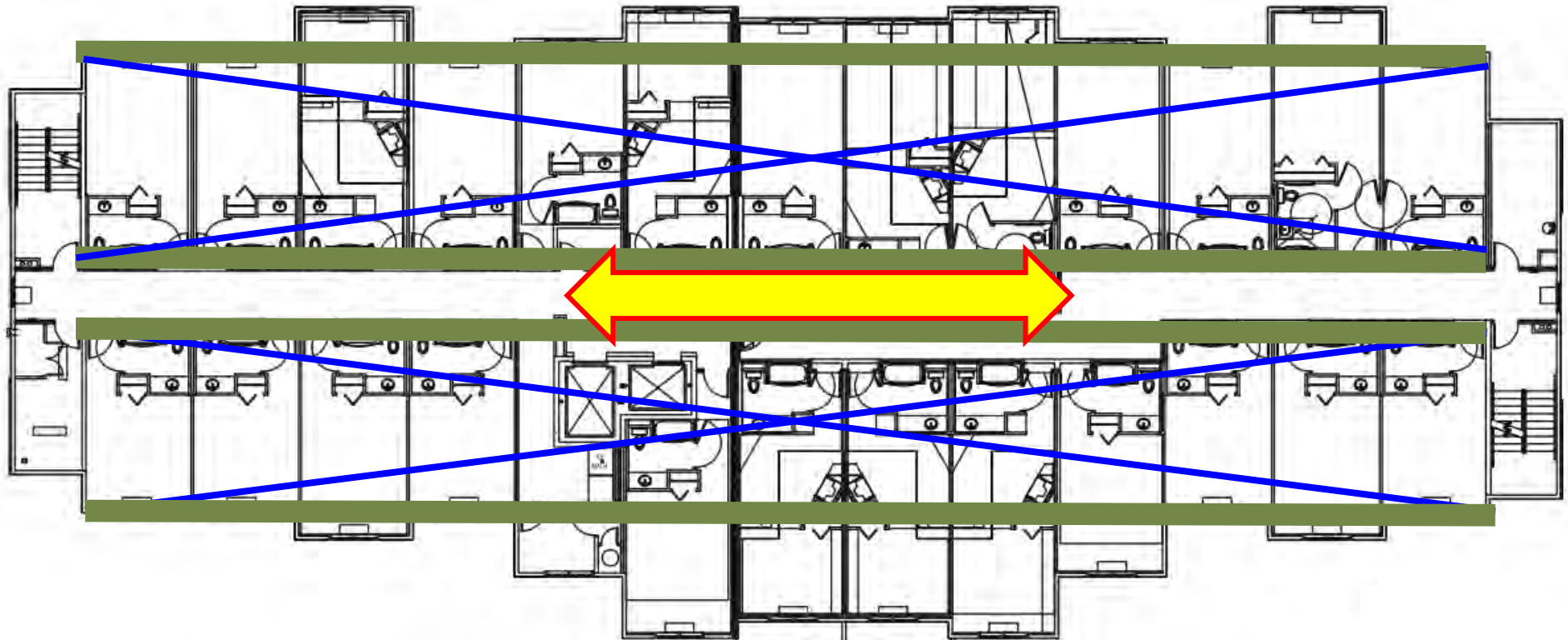


Shearwall Layout

Source: WoodWorks Five-Story Wood-Frame  
Structure over Podium Slab Design Example

# Multi-Story Wind Design

---



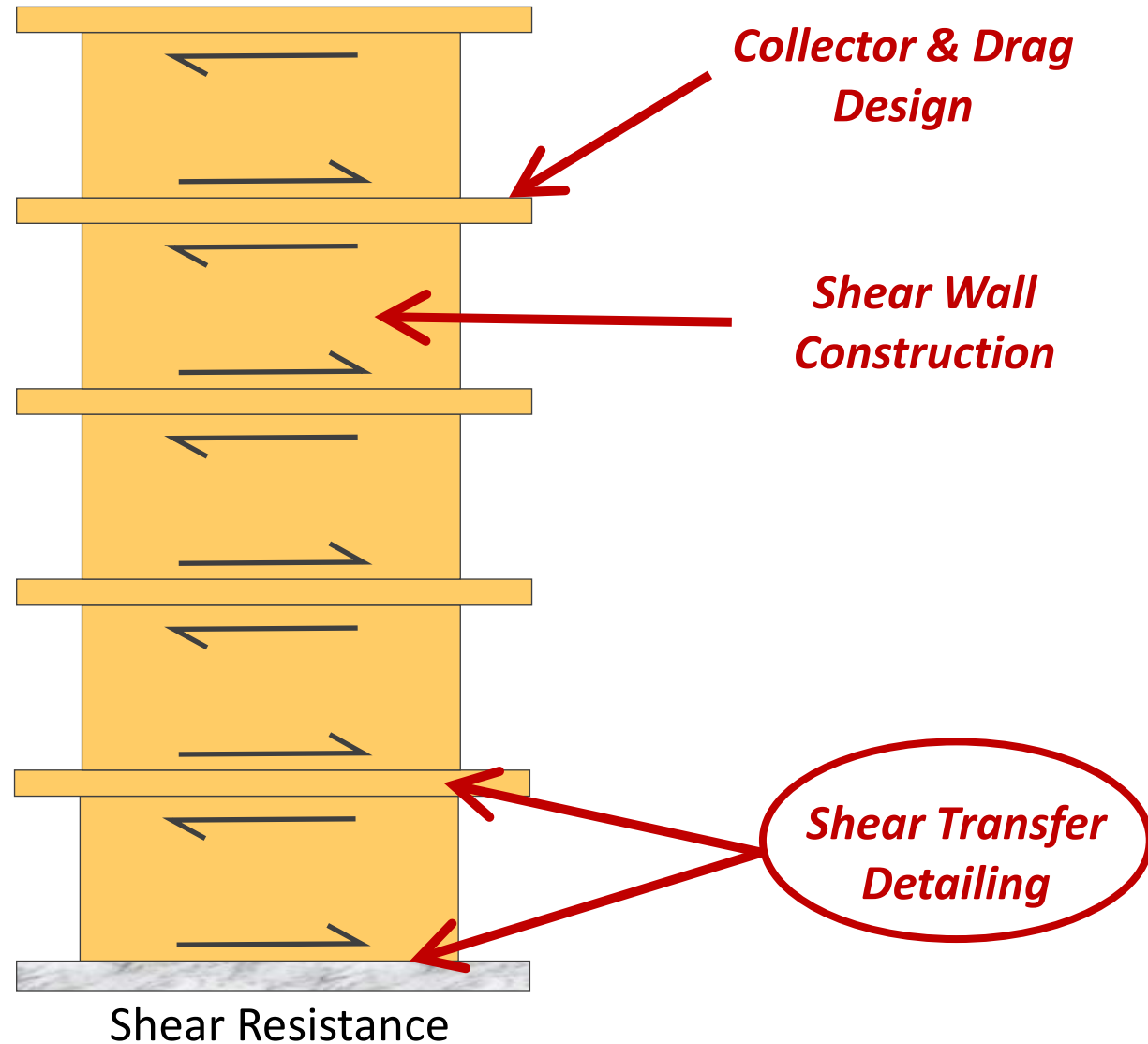
Shearwall Layout

Source: WoodWorks Five-Story Wood-Frame  
Structure over Podium Slab Design Example

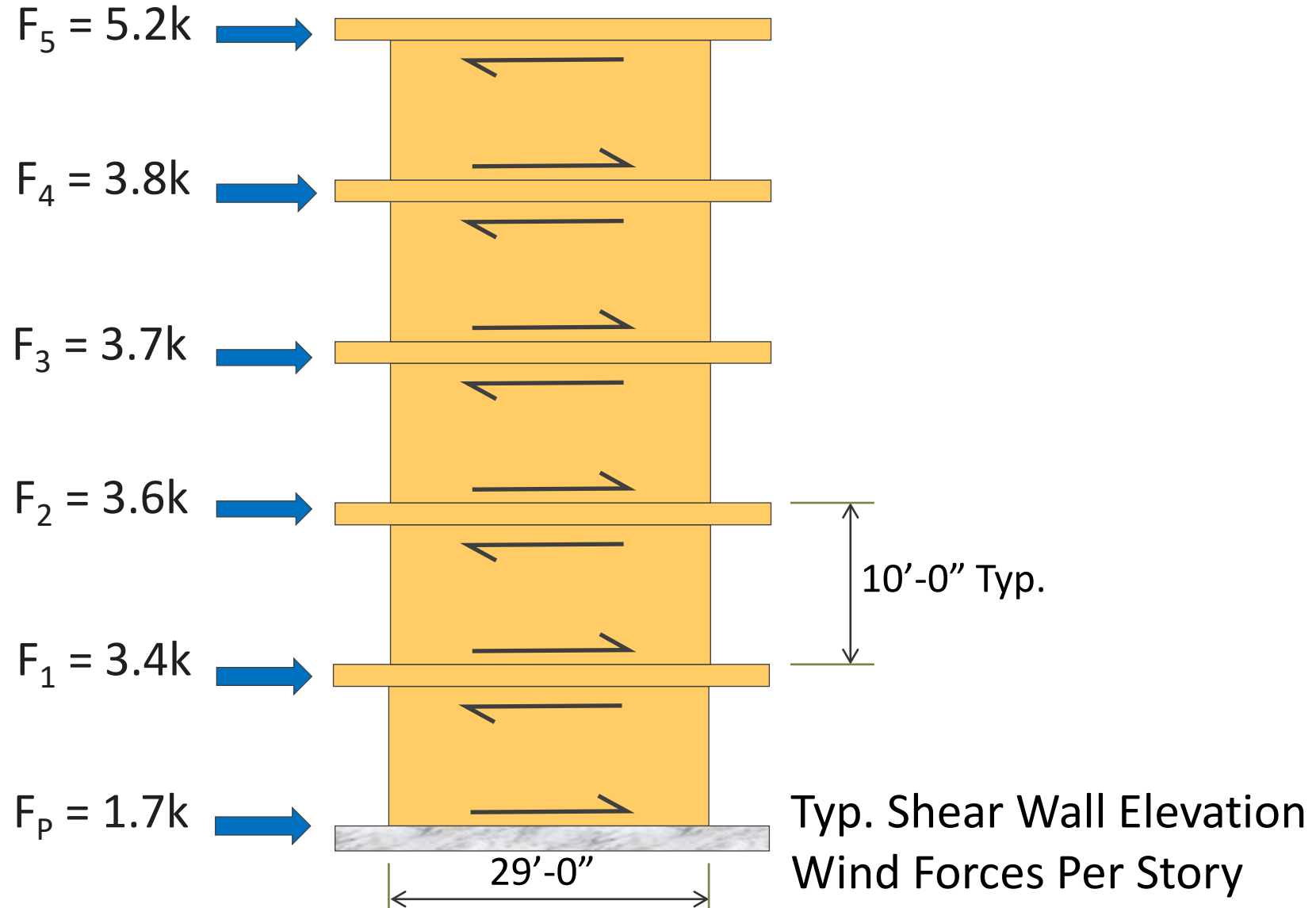


# Components of Shear Wall Design

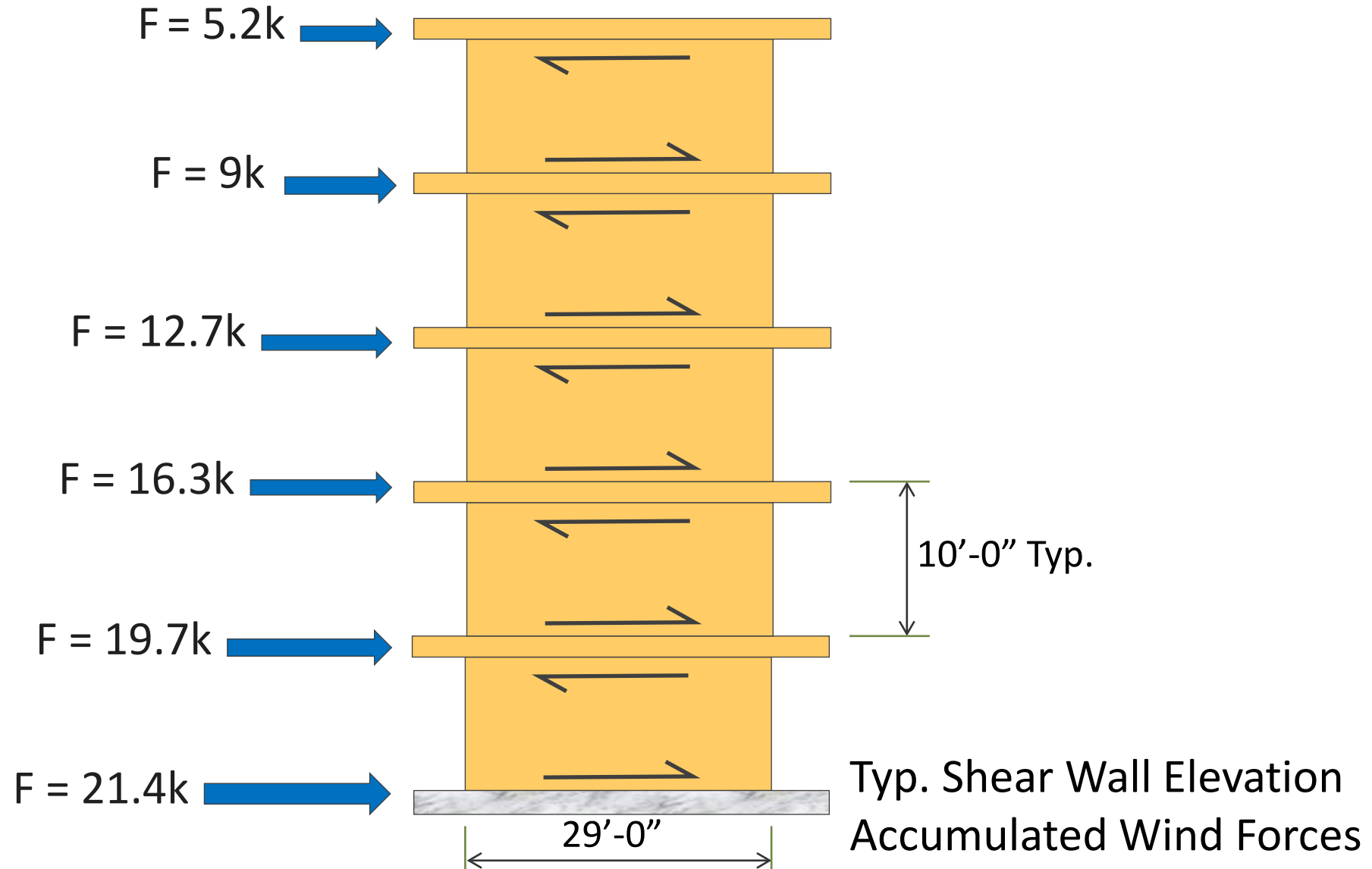
---



# Components of Shear Wall Design



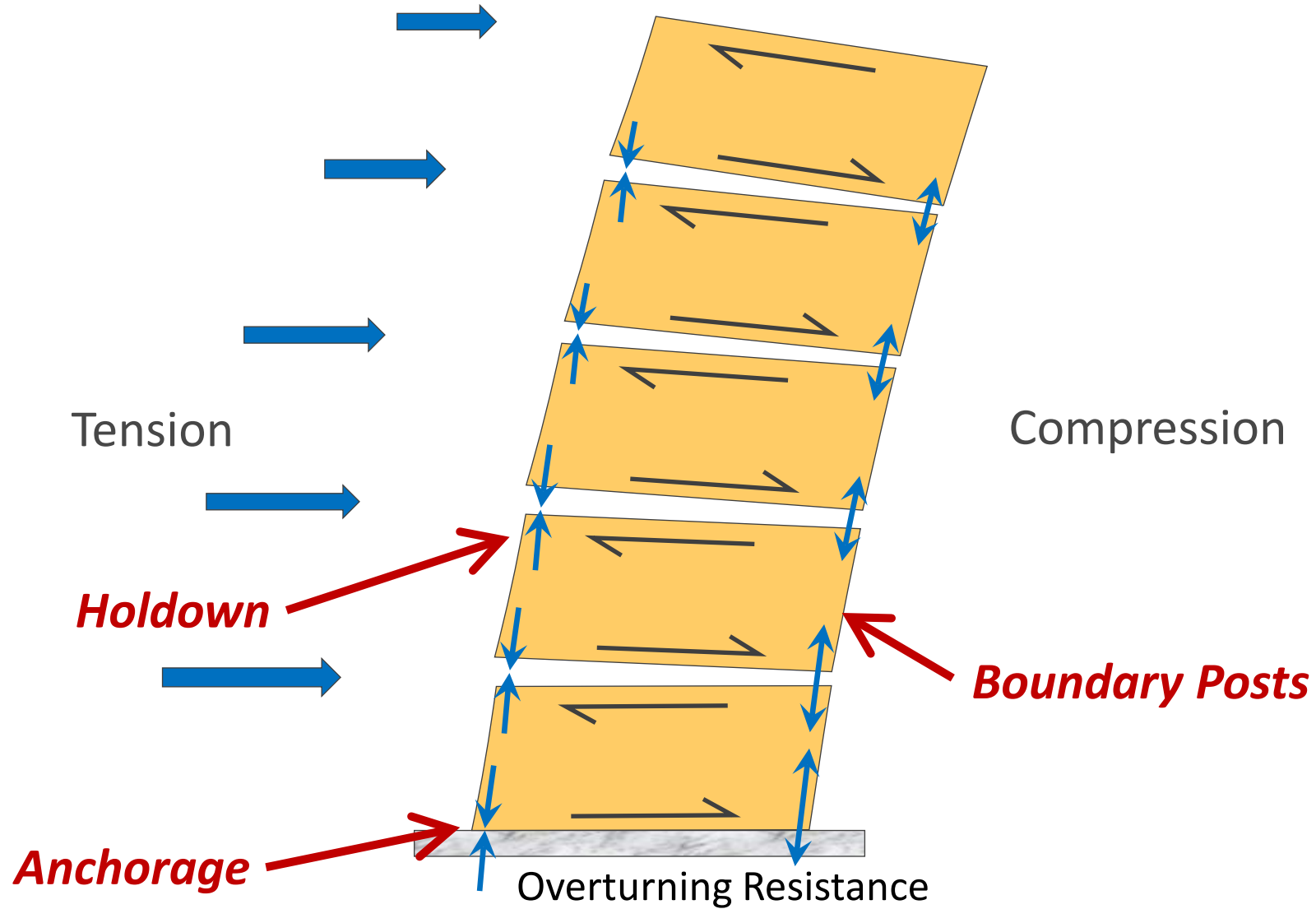
# Components of Shear Wall Design



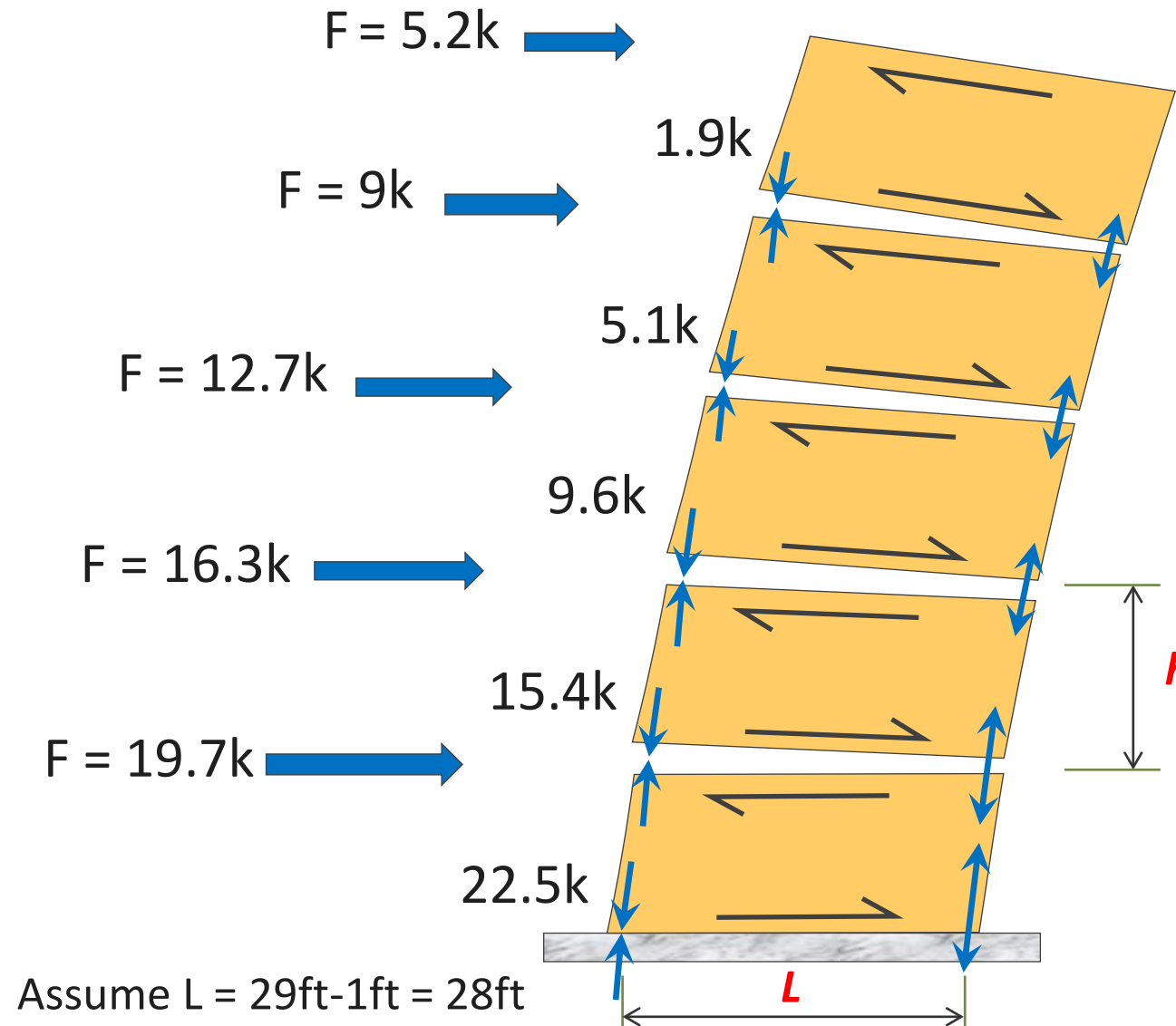


# Components of Shear Wall Design

---



# Overturning Force Calculation



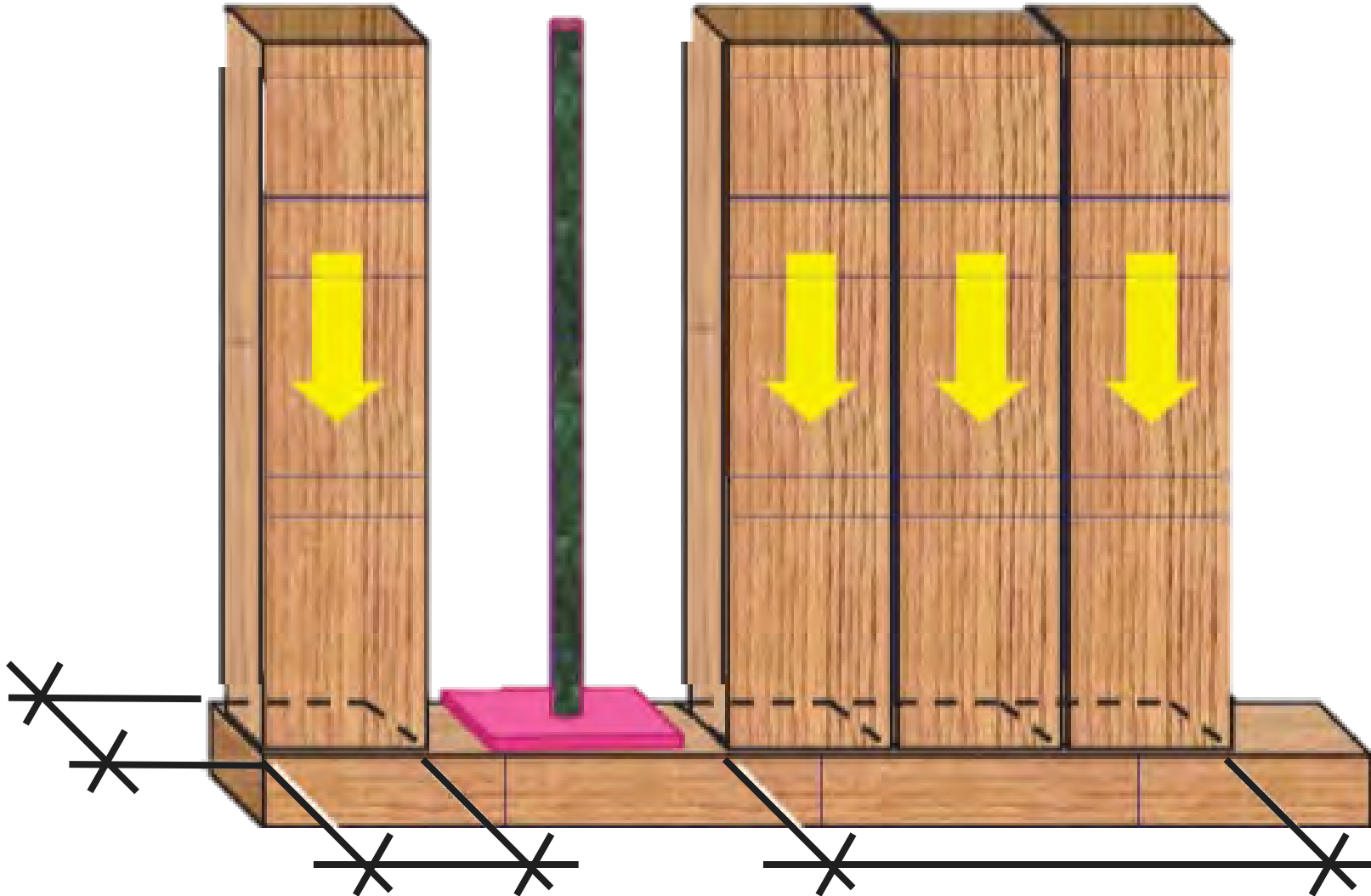
$$T = C = F * h / L$$

***$T$  &  $C$  are cumulative at lower stories***

***$L$  is moment arm, not entire wall length***

# Sole Plate Crushing

---





# Sole Plate Crushing

Compression forces perpendicular to grain can cause localized wood crushing. NDS values for  $F_{C\perp}$  with metal plate bearing on wood result in a maximum wood crushing of 0.04".

Relationship is non-linear

**Eq. 1.0**

$$f_{C\perp} \leq F_{C\perp 0.02 \text{ in}}$$

$$\Delta = 0.02 \times \left( \frac{f_{C\perp}}{F_{C\perp 0.02 \text{ in}}} \right)$$

**Eq. 2.0**

$$F_{C\perp 0.02 \text{ in}} < f_{C\perp} < F_{C\perp 0.04 \text{ in}}$$

$$\Delta = 0.04 - 0.02 \times \frac{1 - \left( \frac{f_{C\perp}}{F_{C\perp 0.04 \text{ in}}} \right)}{0.27 \text{ in}}$$

**Eq. 3.0**

$$f_{C\perp} > F_{C\perp 0.04 \text{ in}}$$

$$\Delta = 0.04 \times \left( \frac{f_{C\perp}}{F_{C\perp 0.04 \text{ in}}} \right)^3$$

$\Delta$  = deformation, in

$f_{C\perp}$  = induced stress, psi

$F_{C\perp 0.04 \text{ in}} = F_{C\perp}$  = reference design value at 0.04 in deformation, psi ( $F_{C\perp}$ )

$F_{C\perp 0.02 \text{ in}}$  = reference design value at 0.02 in deformation, psi ( $0.73 F_{C\perp}$ )

# Compression Post Size & Sole Plate Crush

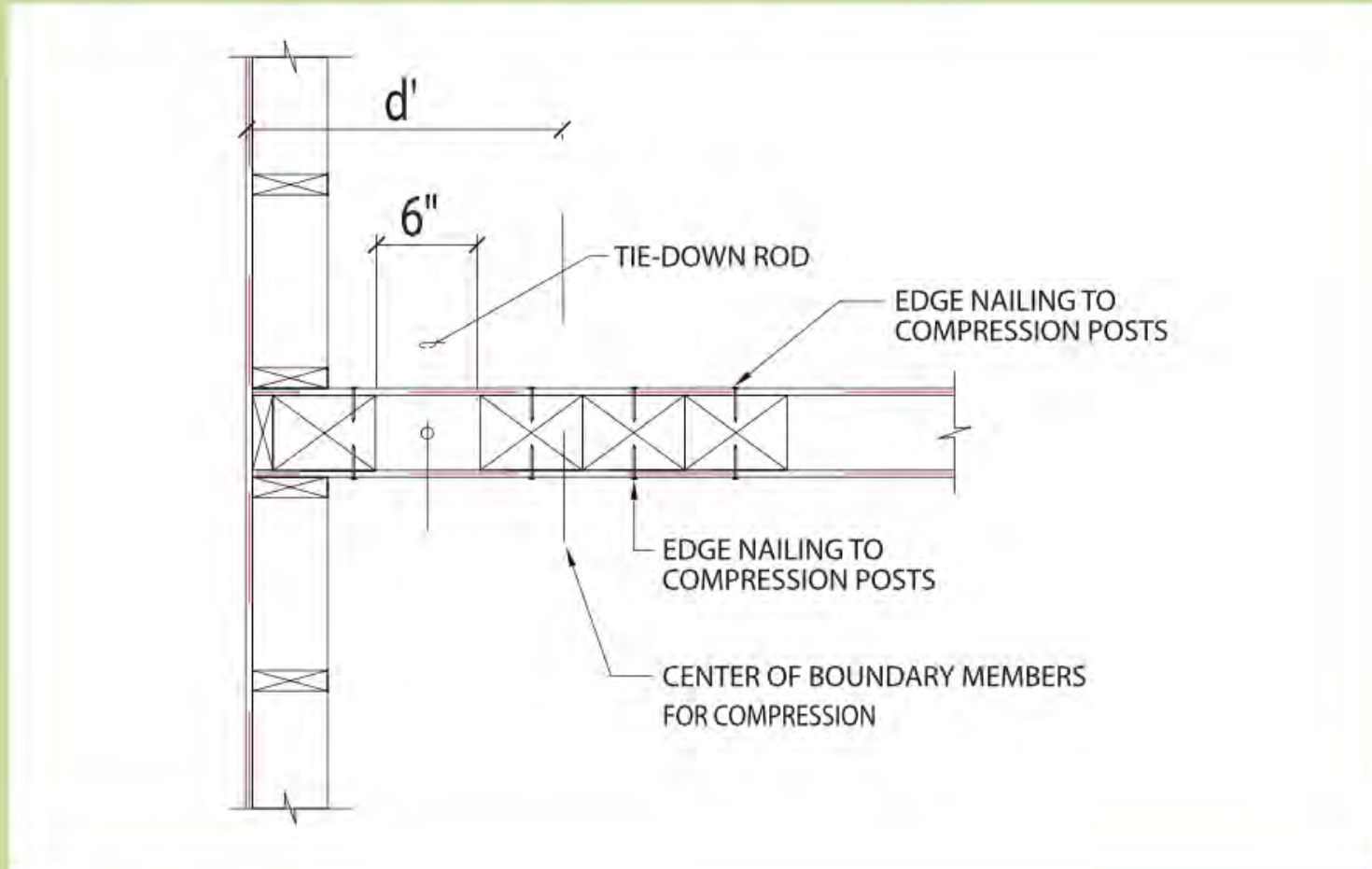
Level	Compression	Required Bearing Area	Post Size	Story Sole Plate Crush	5x Sole Plate Crush
5 <sup>th</sup> Floor	1.9 k	4.4 in <sup>2</sup>	(2)-2x4	0.011"	0.057"
4 <sup>th</sup> Floor	5.1 k	11.9 in <sup>2</sup>	(2)-4x4	0.013"	0.067"
3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor	9.6 k	22.6 in <sup>2</sup>	(2)-4x4	0.034"	0.171"
2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor	15.4 k	36.3 in <sup>2</sup>	(3)-4x4	0.039"	0.195"
1 <sup>st</sup> Floor	22.5 k	39.8 in <sup>2</sup>	(4)-4x4	0.026"	0.13"

Floors 2-5 use S-P-F #2 Sole Plate,  $F_{cperp} = 425$  psi

Floor 1 use SYP #2 Sole Plate,  $F_{cperp} = 565$  psi

# Increasing Compression Post Size

**Figure 10. Example Plan Section at Boundary Members**

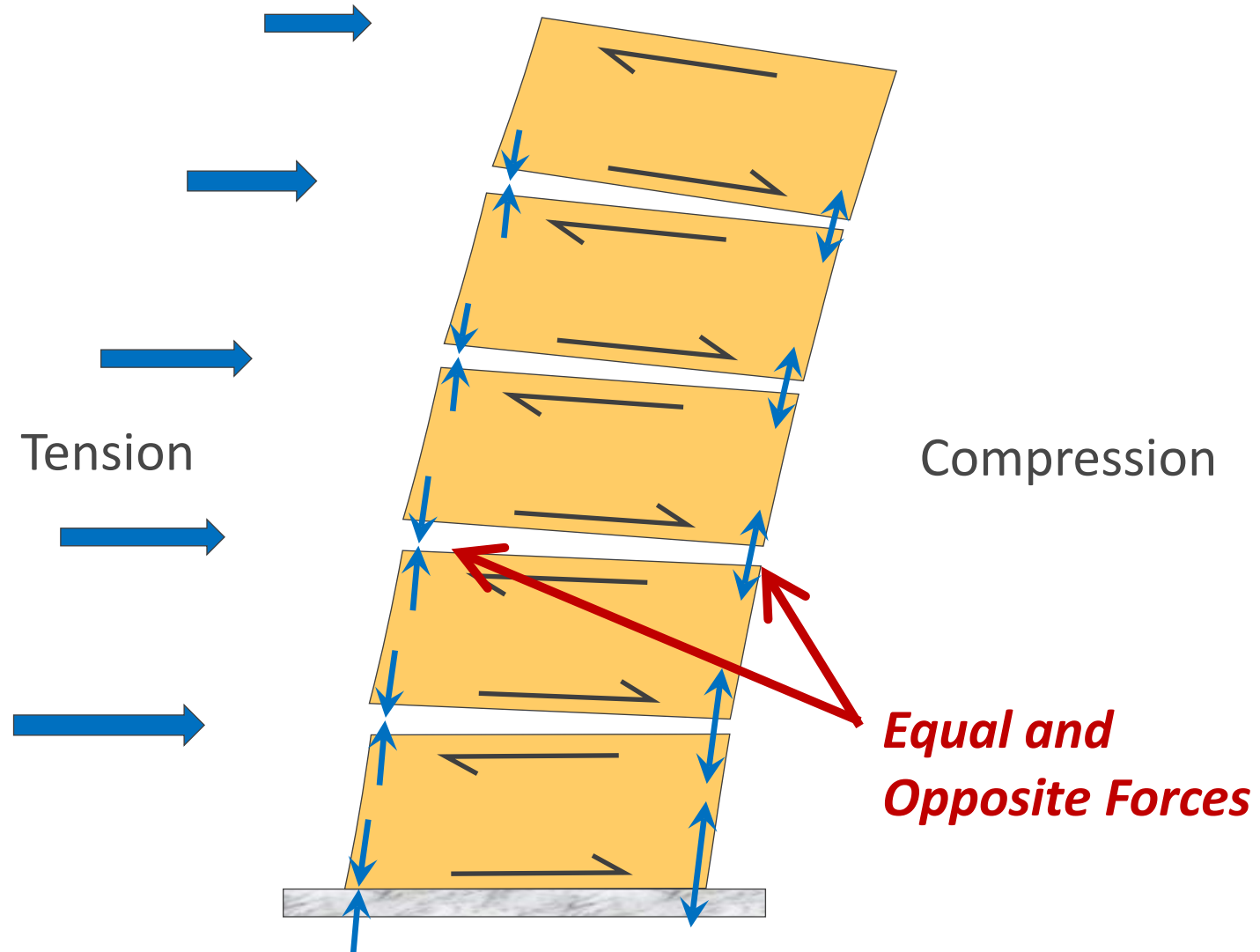


Source: WoodWorks Five-Story Wood-Frame  
Structure over Podium Slab Design Example



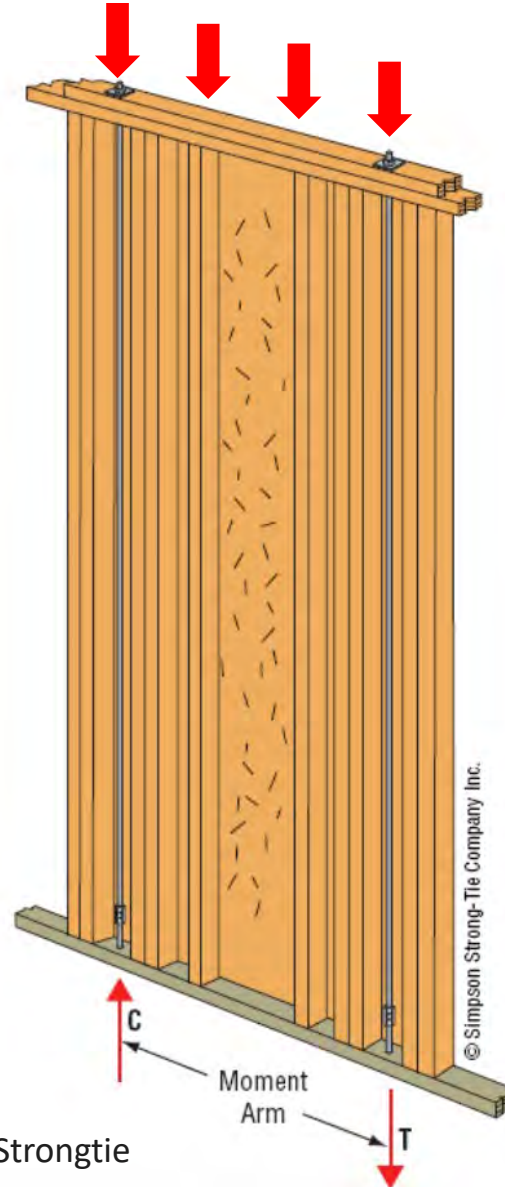
# Overturning Tension

---



# Using Dead Load to Resist Overturning

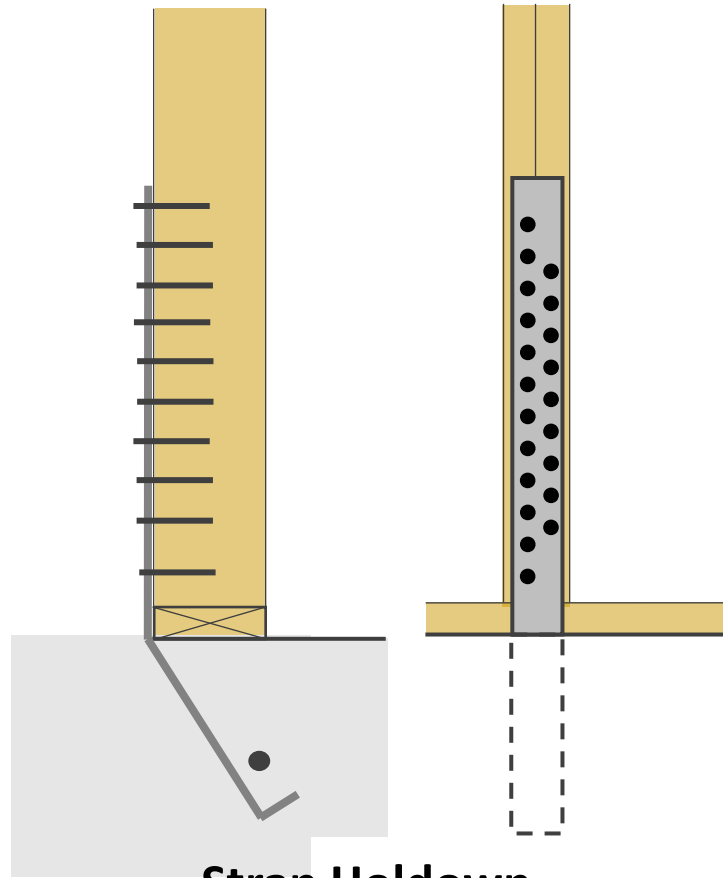
Load  
Combinations of  
ASCE 7-10:  
**0.6D + 0.6W**



Dead load from above  
(Wall, Floor, Roof) can be  
used to resist some or all  
overturning forces,  
depending on magnitude

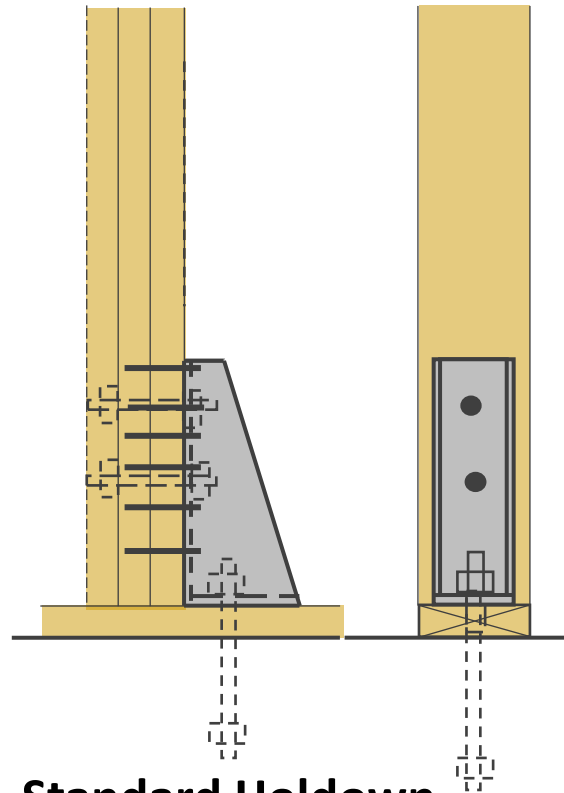
Source: Strongtie

# Shear Wall Holddown Options



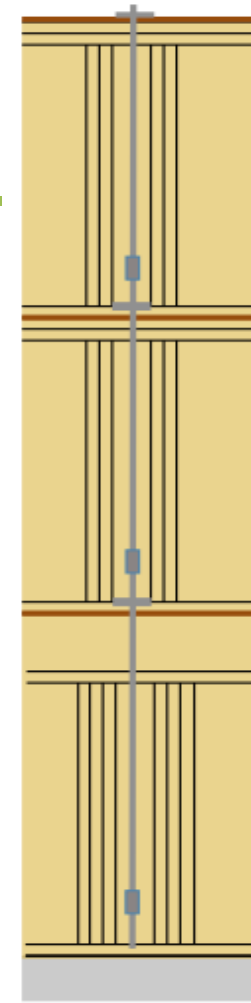
**Strap Holddown  
Installation**

*6+ kip story to  
story capacities*



**Standard Holddown  
Installation**

*13+ kip  
capacities*

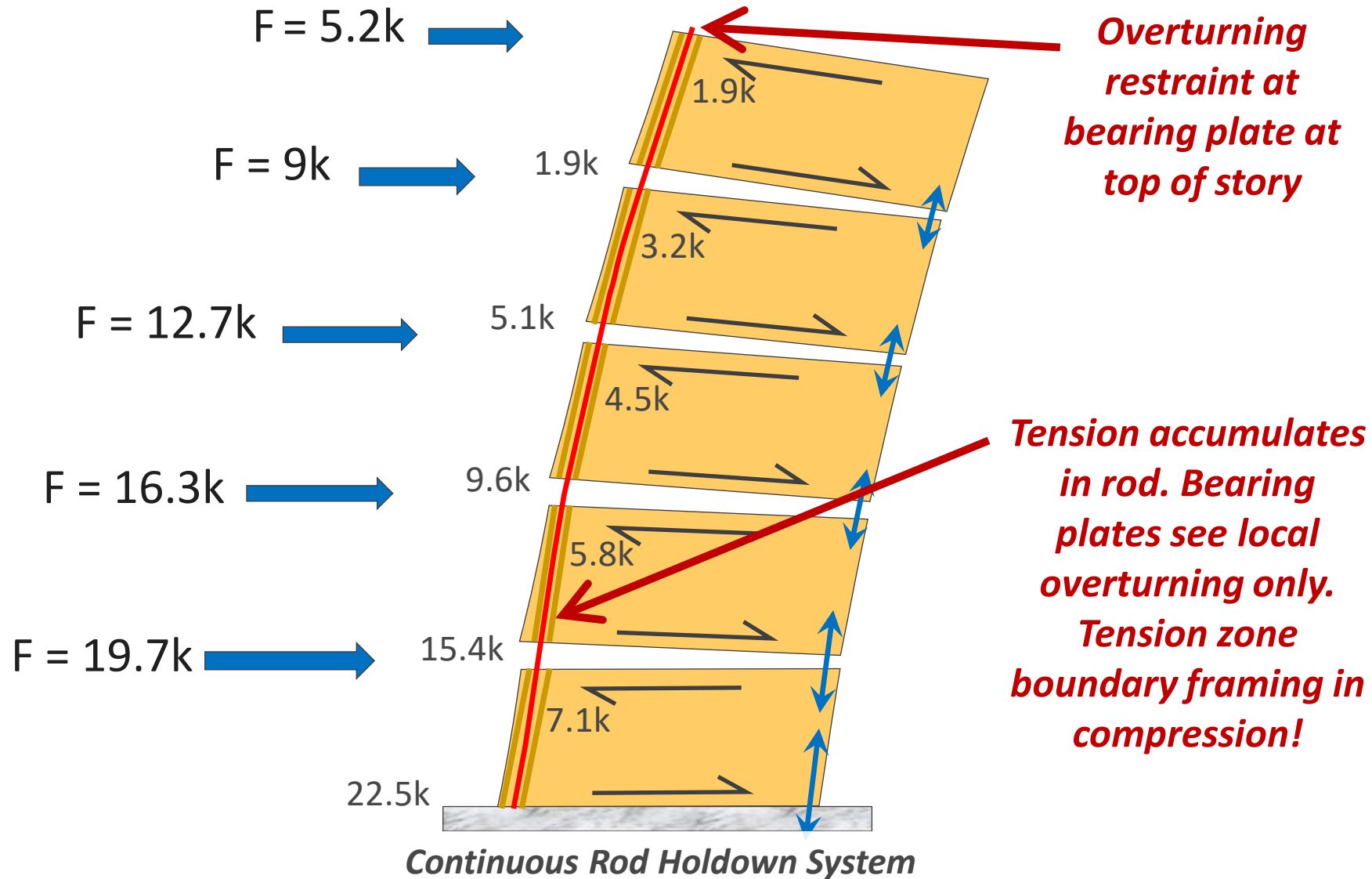


**Continuous Rod  
Tiedown Systems**

*100+ kip capacities  
20+ kips/level*



# Components of Shear Wall Design



# Threaded Rod Tie Down w/Take Up Device

---



Source: Strongtie



Source: hardyframe.com



# Tie Down Rod Size & Elongation

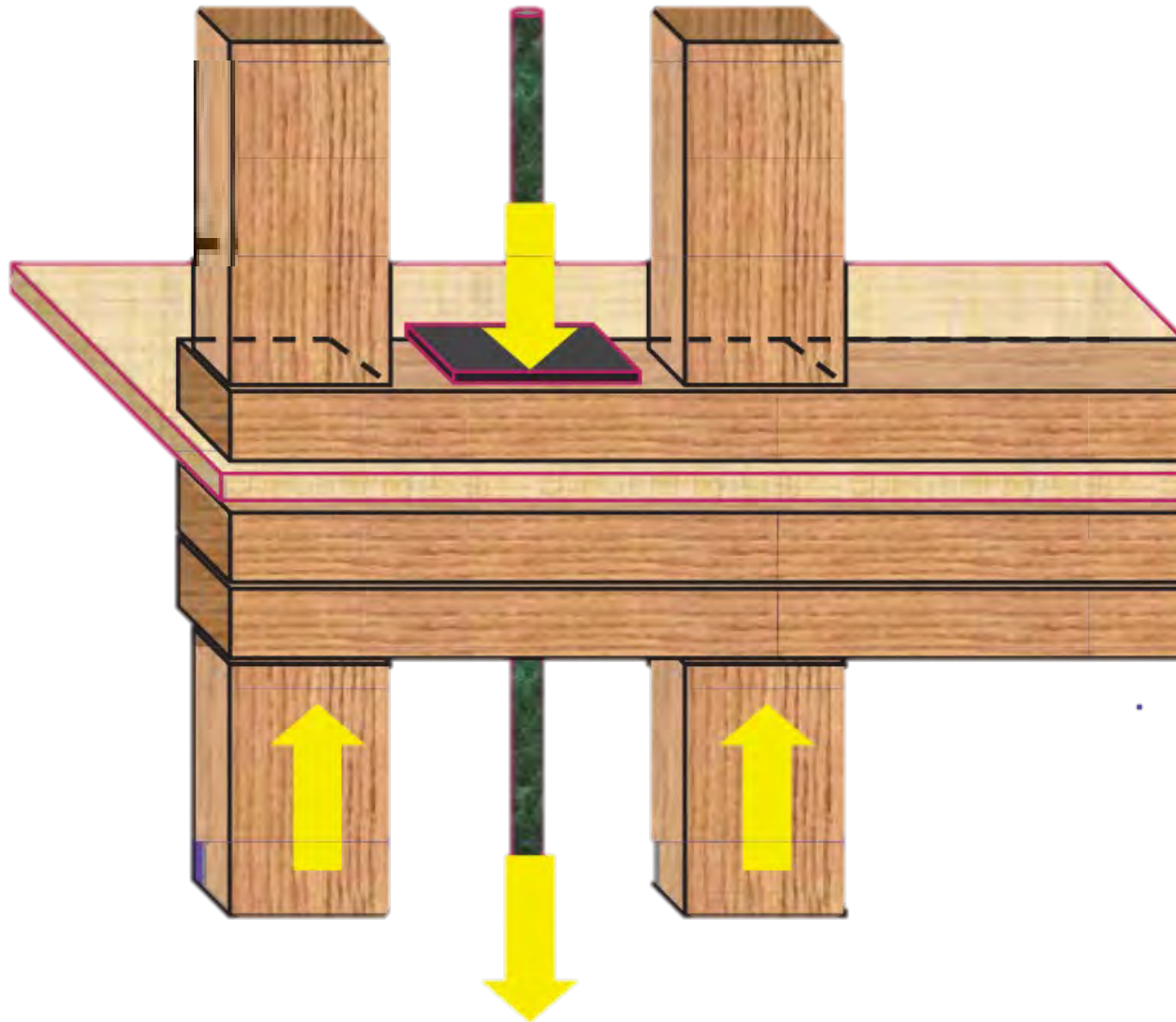
---

Level	Plate Hght	Tension	Rod Dia.	Steel	Rod Capacity	Rod Elong.
5 <sup>th</sup> Floor	10 ft	1.9 k	3/8"	A36	2.4 k	0.10"
4 <sup>th</sup> Floor	10 ft	5.1 k	5/8"	A36	6.7 k	0.09"
3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor	10 ft	9.6 k	5/8"	A193	14.4 k	0.18"
2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor	10 ft	15.4 k	3/4"	A193	20.7 k	0.19"
1 <sup>st</sup> Floor	10 ft	22.5 k	7/8"	A193	28.2 k	0.2"



# Bearing Plate Crushing

---



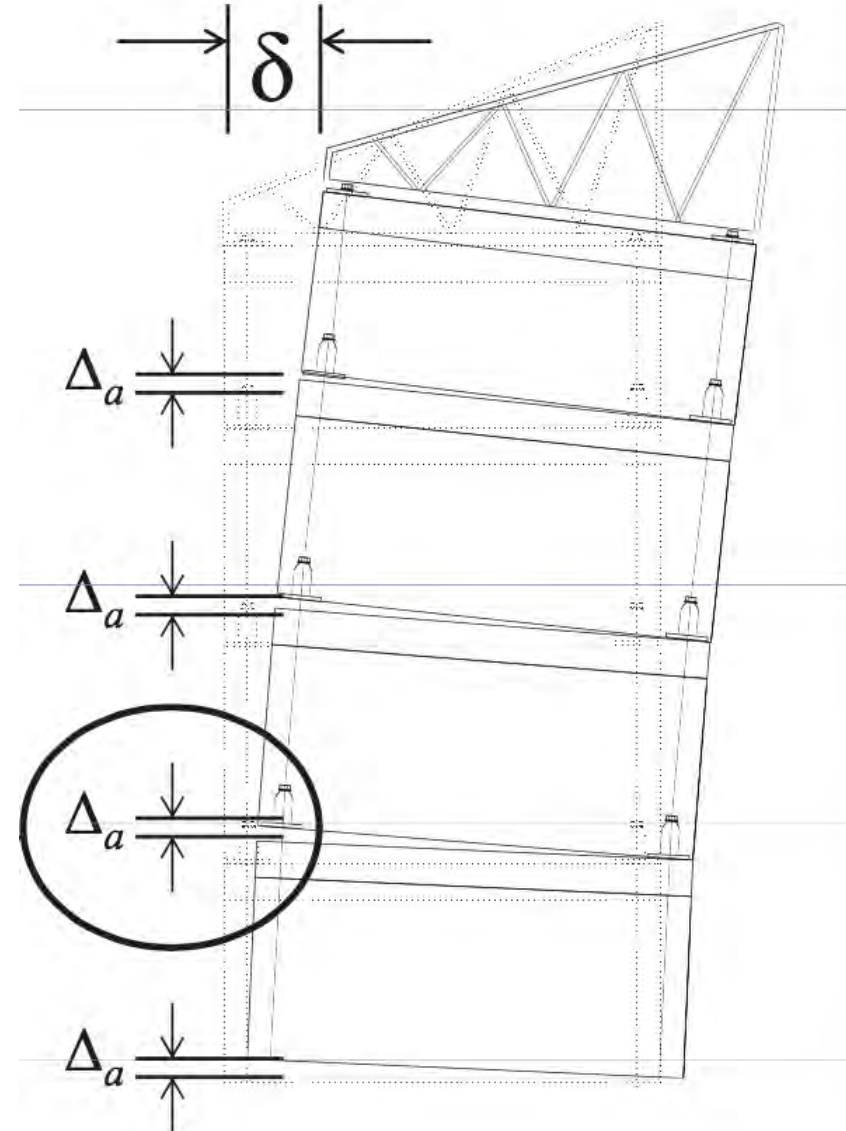
# Bearing Plate Size & Thickness

Level	Bearing Plate					Bearing Load	Allow. Bearing Capacity	Bearing Plate Crush
	W	L	T	Hole Area	A <sub>brng</sub>			
5 <sup>th</sup> Floor	3 in	3.5 in	3/8"	0.25 in <sup>2</sup>	10.25 in <sup>2</sup>	1.9 k	4.4 k	0.012"
4 <sup>th</sup> Floor	3 in	3.5 in	3/8"	0.518 in <sup>2</sup>	9.98 in <sup>2</sup>	3.2 k	4.2 k	0.022"
3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor	3 in	5.5 in	1/2"	0.518 in <sup>2</sup>	15.98 in <sup>2</sup>	4.5 k	6.8 k	0.018"
2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor	3 in	5.5 in	1/2"	0.69 in <sup>2</sup>	15.8 in <sup>2</sup>	5.8 k	6.7 k	0.03"
1 <sup>st</sup> Floor	3 in	8.5 in	7/8"	0.89 in <sup>2</sup>	24.6 in <sup>2</sup>	7.0 k	10.4 k	0.014"

# Shearwall Deformation – System Stretch

Total system stretch includes:

- Rod Elongation
- Take-up device displacement
- Bearing Plate Crushing
- Sole Plate Crushing





# Accumulative Movement

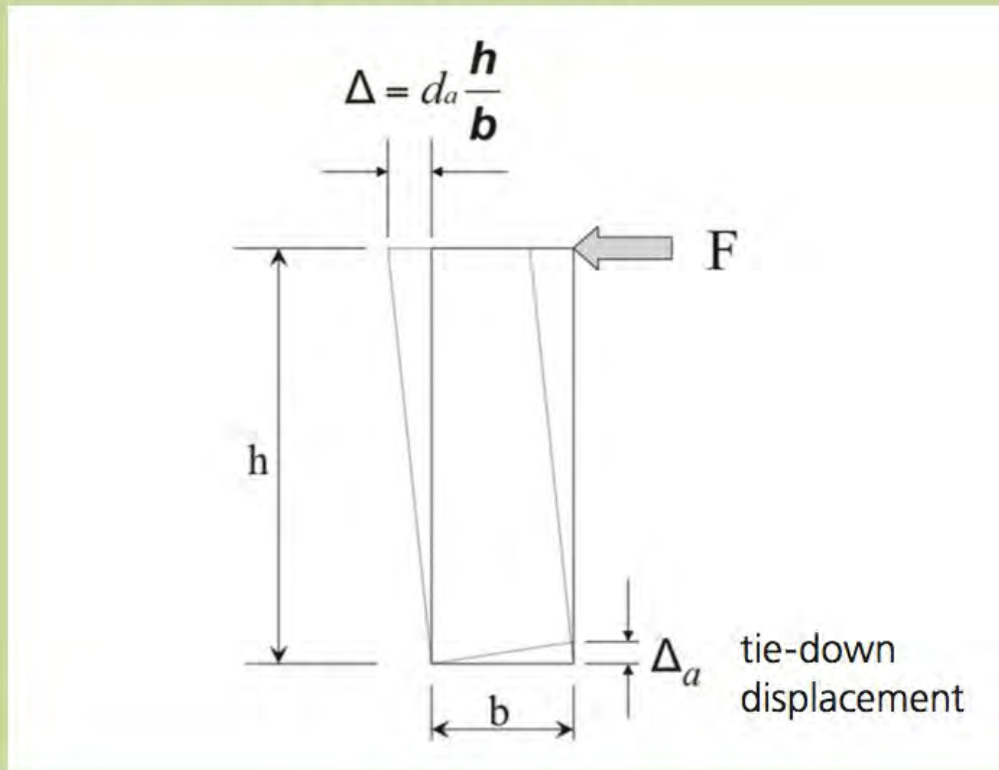
## With Shrinkage Compensating Devices

Level	Rod Elong.	Shrinkage	Sole Plate Crush	Bearing Plate Crush	Take Up Deflect. Elong.	Total Displac.
5 <sup>th</sup> Floor	0.1"	0.03"	0.057"	0.012"	0.03"	0.23"
4 <sup>th</sup> Floor	0.09"	0.03"	0.067"	0.022"	0.03"	0.24"
3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor	0.18"	0.03"	0.171"	0.018"	0.03"	0.43"
2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor	0.19"	0.03"	0.195"	0.03"	0.03"	0.48"
1 <sup>st</sup> Floor	0.2"	0.03"	0.13"	0.014"	0.03"	0.4"

# Shearwall Tie Down Elongation

SDPWS Definition of  $\Delta_a$ : *“Total vertical elongation of wall anchorage system (including fastener slip, device elongation, rod elongation, etc.) at the induced unit shear in the wall.”*

**Figure 11. Effect of  $\Delta_a$  on Drift**

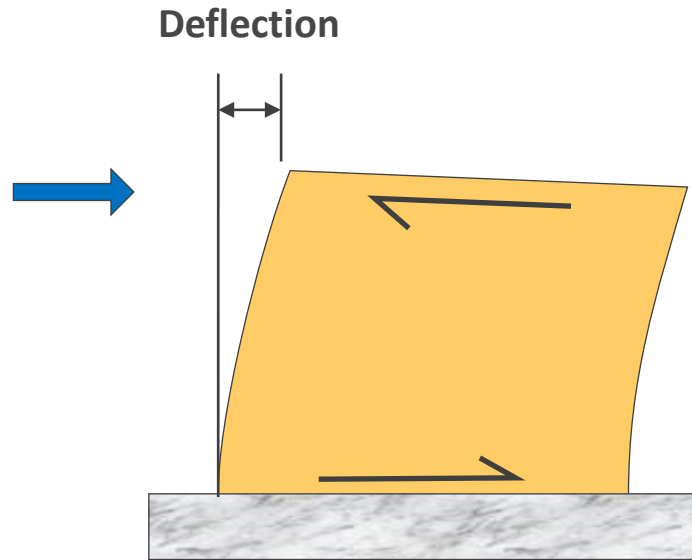


Notes for Figure 11:

Where:  $h$  = floor-to-floor height  
 $b$  = the out-to-out dimension of the shear wall

Source: WoodWorks Five-Story Wood-Frame Structure over Podium Slab Design Example

# Shear Wall Deflection



*SDPWS 2008 Eq 4.3-1*

$$\delta_{sw} = \frac{8vh^3}{EAb} + \frac{vh}{1000G_a} + \frac{h\Delta_a}{b}$$

*SDPWS 2008 Eq. C4.3.2-1*

$$\delta_{sw} = \frac{8vh^3}{EAb} + \frac{vh}{G_v t_v} + 0.75he_n + \frac{h}{b}\Delta_a$$

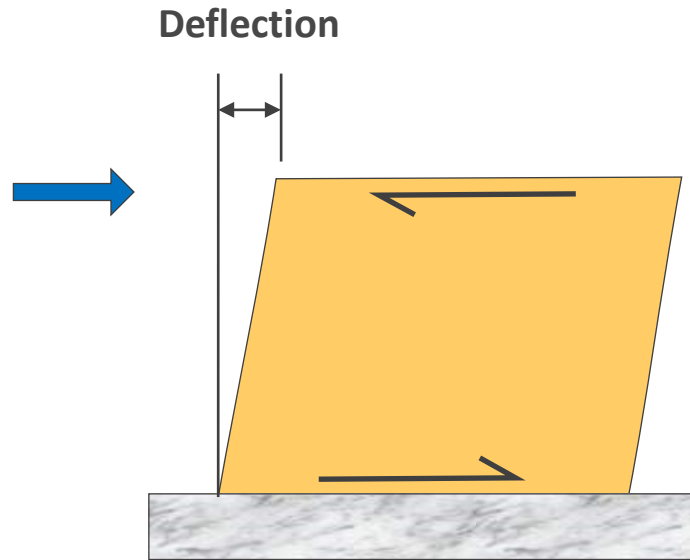
*IBC 2000 to 2015 Eq. 23-2*

$$\Delta = \frac{8vh^3}{EAb} + \frac{vh}{Gt} + 0.75he_n + d_a \frac{h}{b}$$

**Bending of boundary elements**



# Shear Wall Deflection



*SDPWS 2008 Eq 4.3-1*

$$\delta_{sw} = \frac{8vh^3}{EAb} + \boxed{\frac{vh}{1000G_a}} + \frac{h\Delta_a}{b}$$

*SDPWS 2008 Eq. C4.3.2-1*

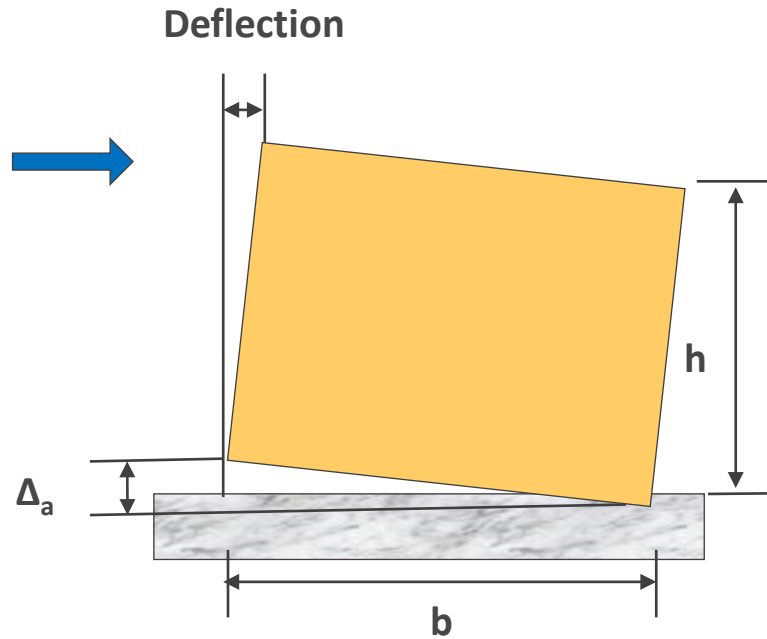
$$\delta_{sw} = \frac{8vh^3}{EAb} + \boxed{\frac{vh}{G_v t_v} + 0.75he_n} + \frac{h}{b}\Delta_a$$

*IBC 2000 to 2015 Eq. 23-2*

$$\Delta = \frac{8vh^3}{EAb} + \boxed{\frac{vh}{Gt} + 0.75he_n} + d_a \frac{h}{b}$$

**Shear Deformation of Sheathing Panels  
&  
Slip of nails @ panel to panel connections**

# Shear Wall Deflection



*SDPWS 2008 Eq 4.3-1*

$$\delta_{sw} = \frac{8vh^3}{EAb} + \frac{vh}{1000G_a} + \frac{h\Delta_a}{b}$$

*SDPWS 2008 Eq. C4.3.2-1*

$$\delta_{sw} = \frac{8vh^3}{EAb} + \frac{vh}{G_v t_v} + 0.75he_n + \frac{h}{b}\Delta_a$$

*IBC 2000 to 2015 Eq. 23-2*

$$\Delta = \frac{8vh^3}{EAb} + \frac{vh}{Gt} + 0.75he_n + d_a \frac{h}{b}$$

**Rigid Body Rotation**

# Shearwall Deflection

---

Level	Unit Shear	End Post A	End Post E	Ga	Total Displace.	Deflection
5 <sup>th</sup> Floor	179 plf	10.5 in <sup>2</sup>	1400 ksi	10 k/in	0.23"	0.26"
4 <sup>th</sup> Floor	310 plf	24.5 in <sup>2</sup>	1400 ksi	10 k/in	0.24"	0.4"
3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor	438 plf	24.5 in <sup>2</sup>	1400 ksi	10 k/in	0.43"	0.59"
2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor	562 plf	36.8 in <sup>2</sup>	1400 ksi	13 k/in	0.48"	0.6"
1 <sup>st</sup> Floor	679 plf	49 in <sup>2</sup>	1400 ksi	13 k/in	0.4"	0.67"



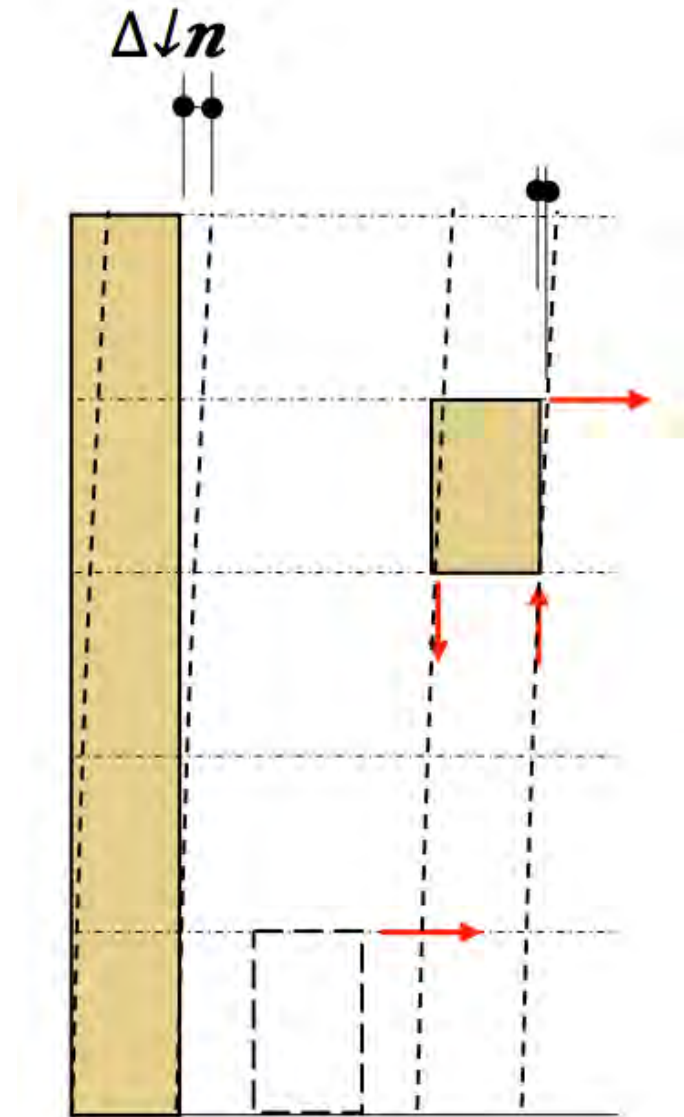
# Shearwall Deflection Methods

Multiple methods for calculating accumulative shearwall deflection exist

Mechanics Based Approach:

- Uses single story deflection equation at each floor
- Includes rotational & crushing effects
- Uses SDPWS 3 part equation

Other methods exist which use alternate deflection equations, FEM



# Shearwall Deflection Criteria for Wind

Unlike seismic, no code information exists on deflection/drift criteria of structures due to wind loads

Serviceability check to minimize damage to cladding and nonstructural walls

## ASCE 7-10:

*C.2.2 Drift of Walls and Frames. Lateral deflection or drift of structures and deformation of horizontal diaphragms and bracing systems due to wind effects shall not impair the serviceability of the structure.*

***What wind force should be used?***

***What drift criteria should be applied?***

***Allowable  
= ?***



# Shearwall Deflection Criteria for Wind

---

## *Wind Forces*

Consensus is that ASD design level forces are too conservative for building/frame drift check due to wind

- Commentary to ASCE 7-10 Appendix C suggests that some recommend using 10 year return period wind forces:
  - ~ 70% of 700 return period wind (ultimate wind speed for risk category II buildings)
- Others (AISC Design Guide 3) recommend using 75% of 50 year return period forces

## *Drift Criteria*

Can vary widely with brittleness of finishes but generally recommendations are in the range of  $H/240$  to  $H/600$



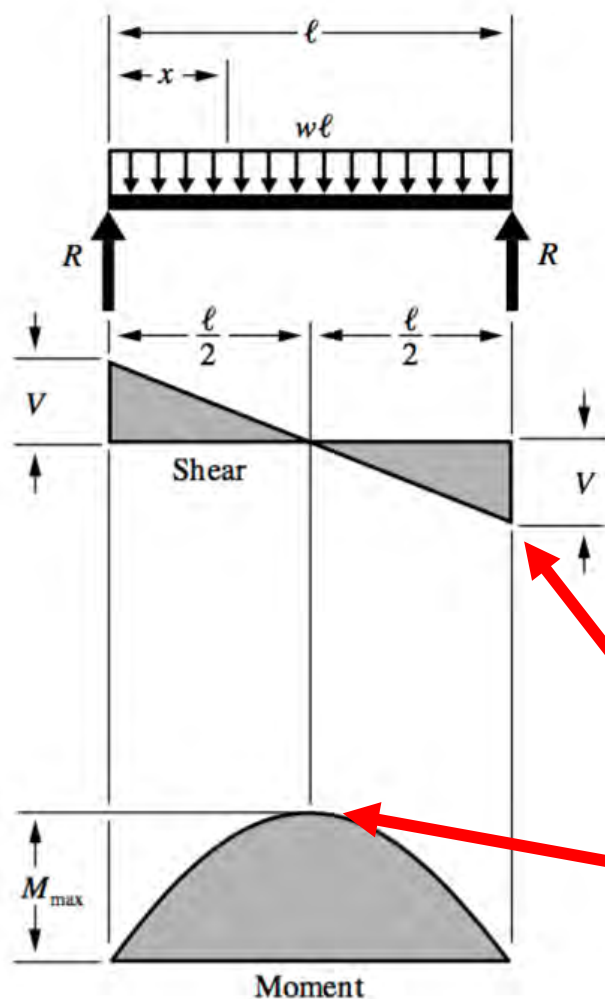
# Diaphragm Design

---



# Calculating Diaphragm Forces

**Figure 1      Simple Beam – Uniformly Distributed Load**



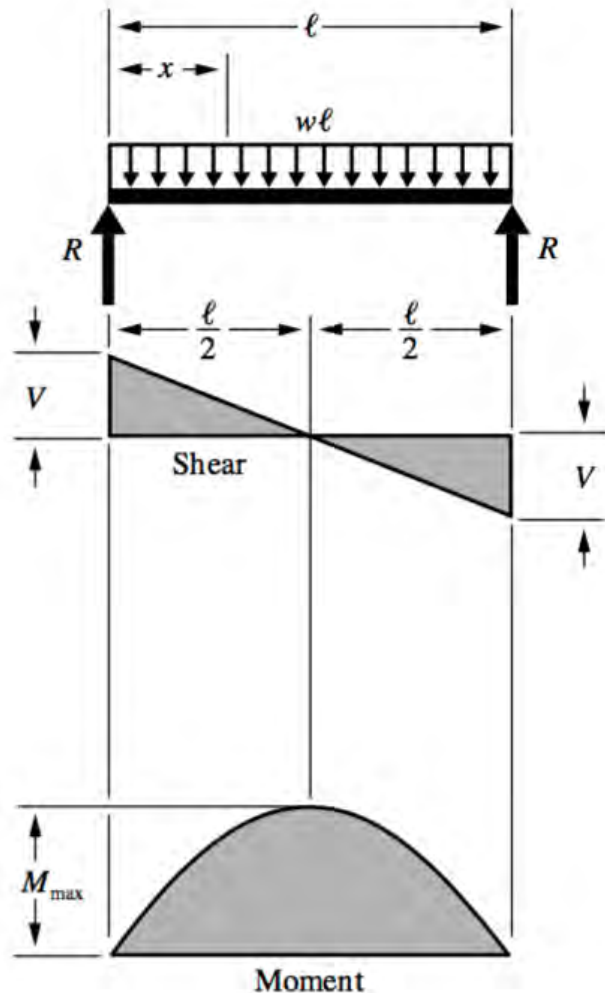
$$\begin{aligned} R = V & \dots\dots\dots = \frac{w\ell}{2} \\ V_x & \dots\dots\dots = w\left(\frac{\ell}{2} - x\right) \\ M_{\max} \text{ (at center)} & \dots\dots\dots = \frac{w\ell^2}{8} \\ M_x & \dots\dots\dots = \frac{wx}{2}(\ell - x) \end{aligned}$$

Max Shear at Ends

Max Moment  
at Mid-Span

# Calculating Diaphragm Forces

**Figure 1 Simple Beam – Uniformly Distributed Load**



## Diaphragm Shear:

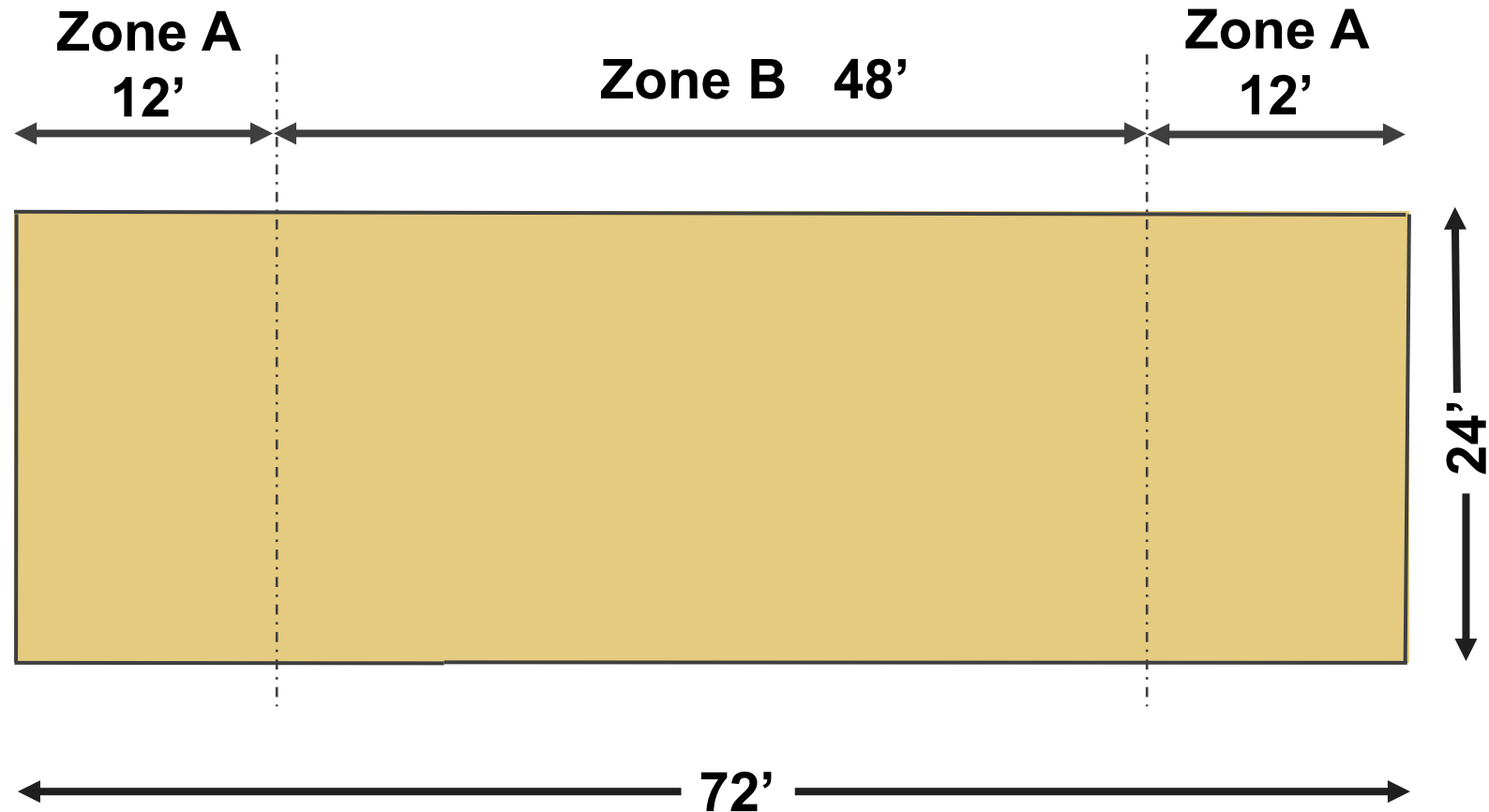
- Max Shear = Diaphragm Reaction at Shearwall
- Diaphragm Unit Shear = Reaction / Length of Diaphragm =  $p/f$



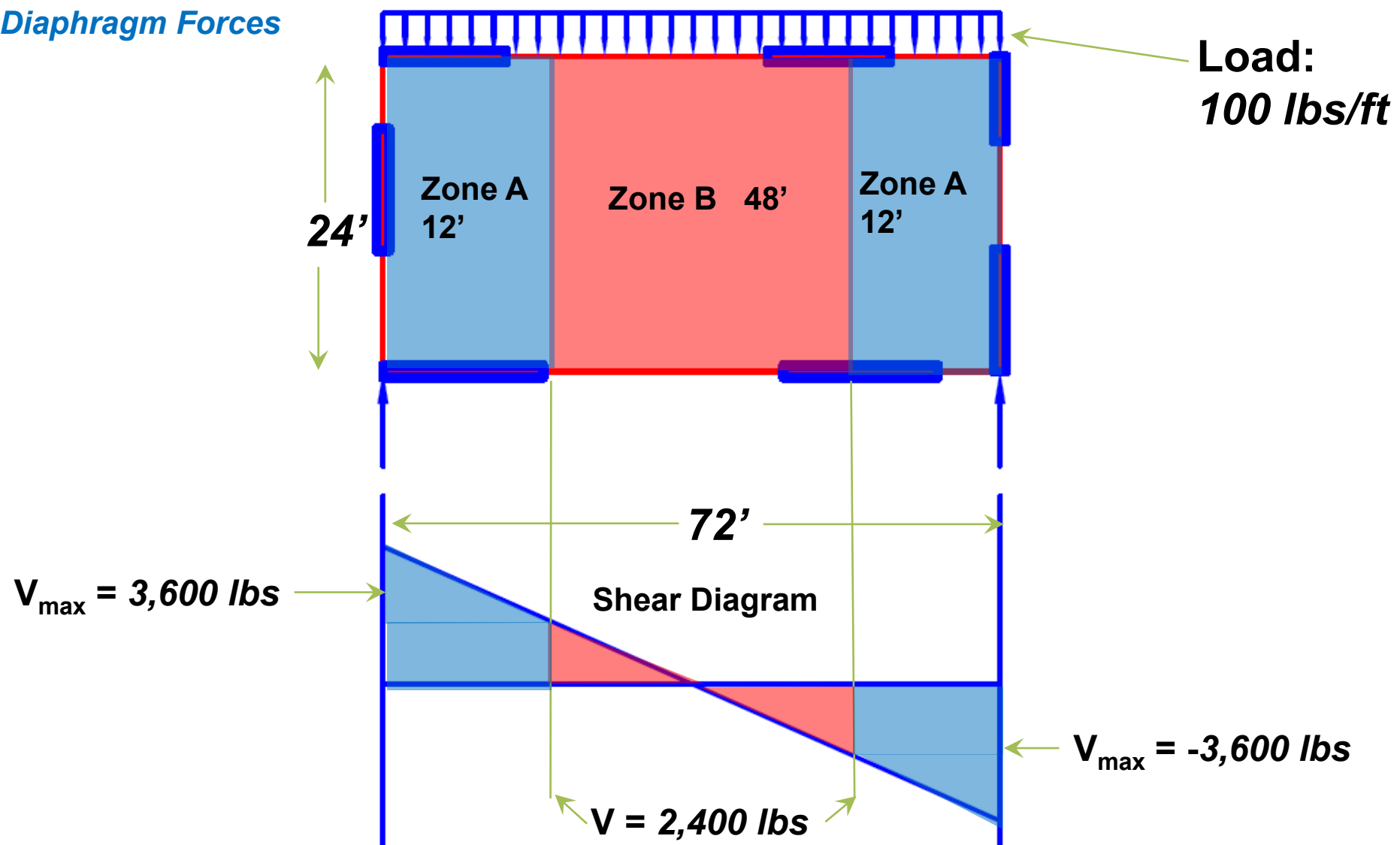
# Calculating Diaphragm Forces

---

## Diaphragm Fastener Schedule



## Diaphragm Forces

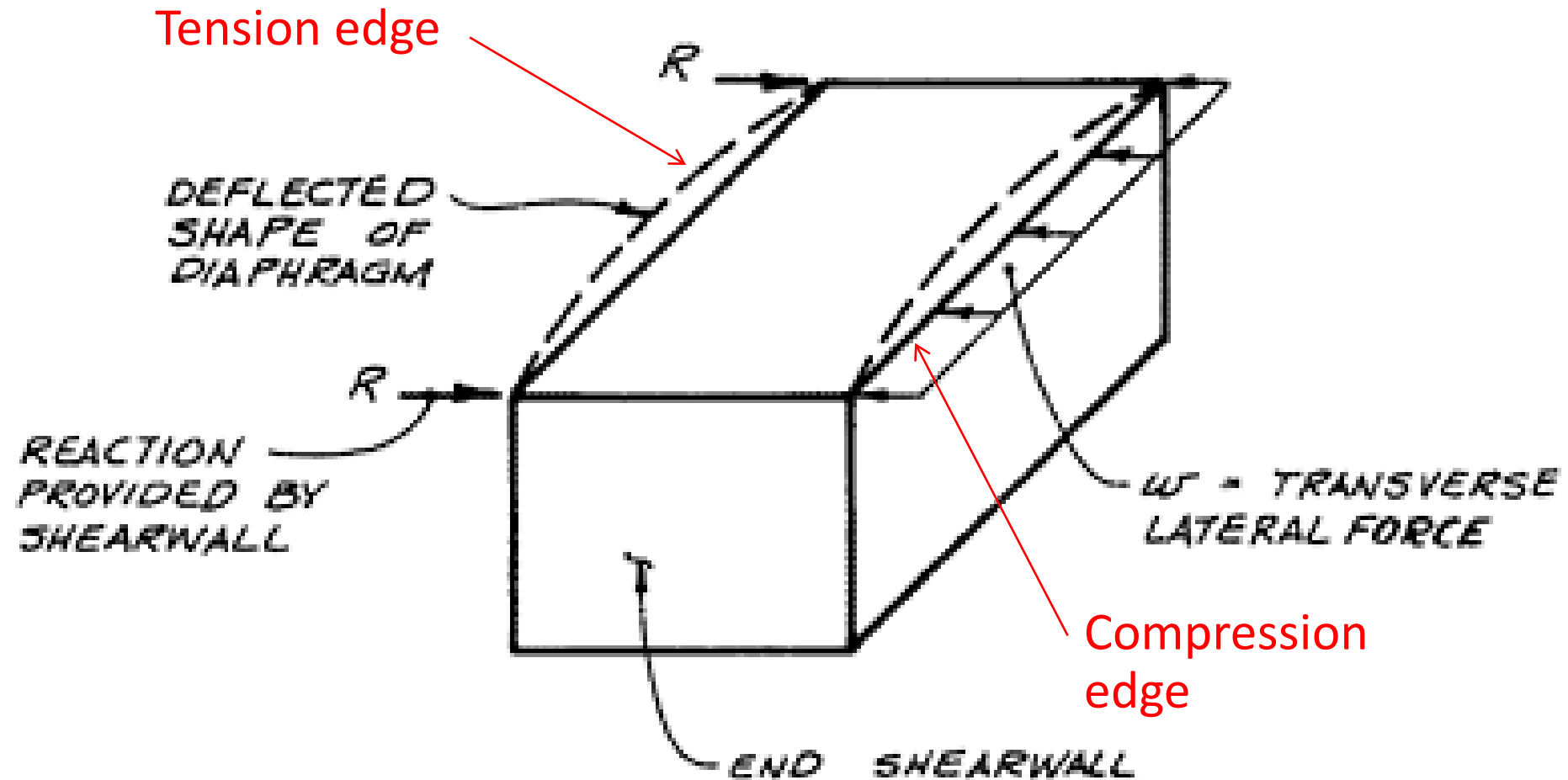


## Diaphragm Fastener Schedule

- **Zone A: Nailing Pattern 1**
- **Zone B: Nailing Pattern 2**

# Diaphragm – Bending Member

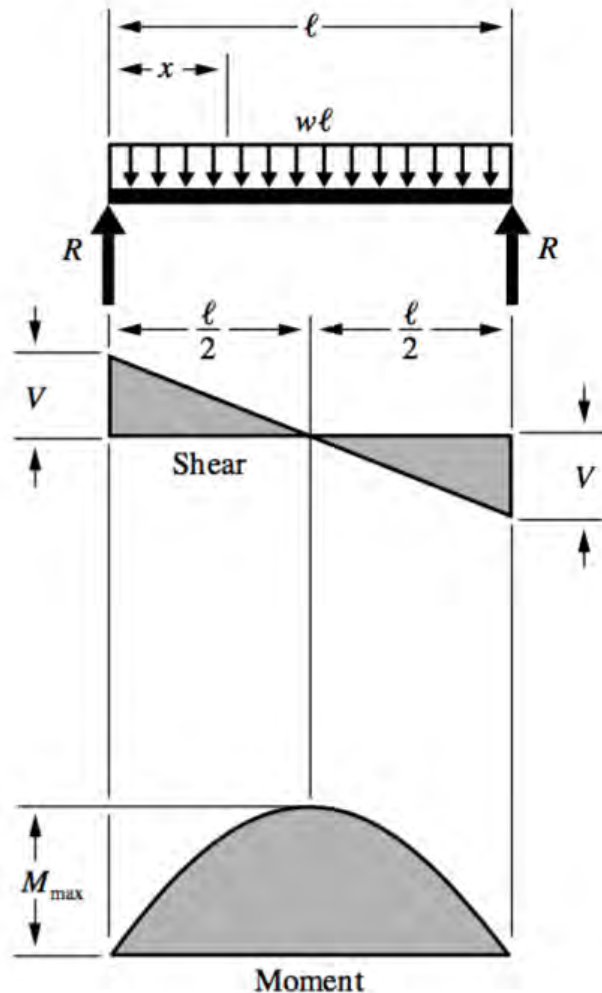
---





# Diaphragm Chord Forces

**Figure 1 Simple Beam – Uniformly Distributed Load**



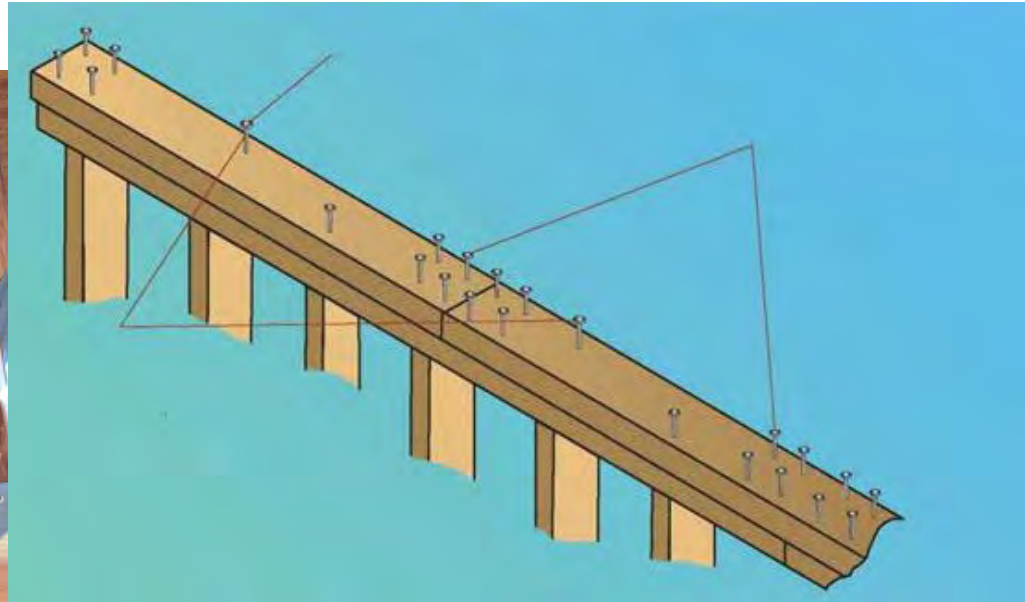
## Diaphragm Chord Forces:

- Max Chord Force Occurs at Location of Max Moment
- Chord Force = T or C
- Chord Force =  $M_{MAX} / \text{Diaphragm Depth}$
- Chord Unit Shear = Chord Force / Length of Diaphragm =  $p/f$

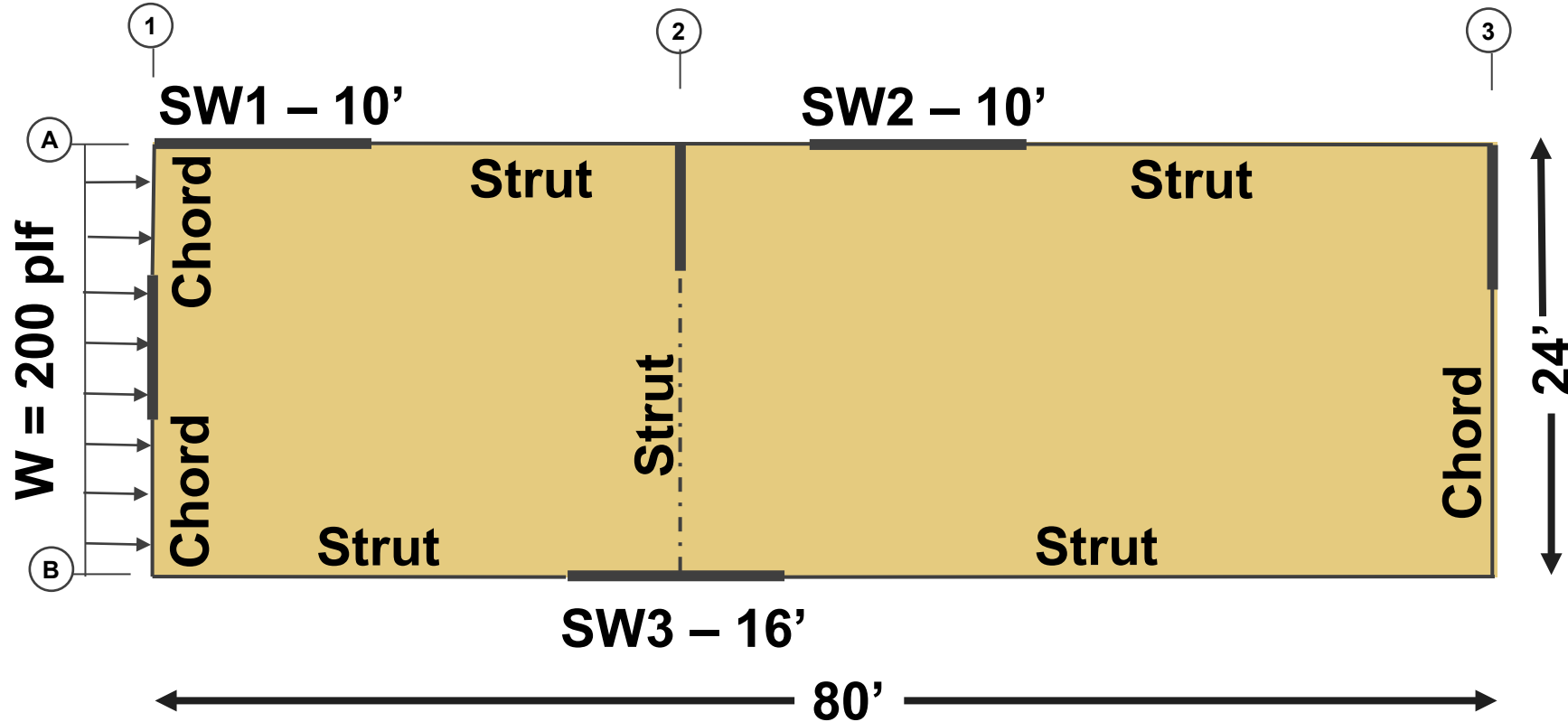
# Diaphragm Chords

---

**Wall Top Plates Typically Function as Both Diaphragm Chords and Drag Struts**



# Diaphragm Boundary

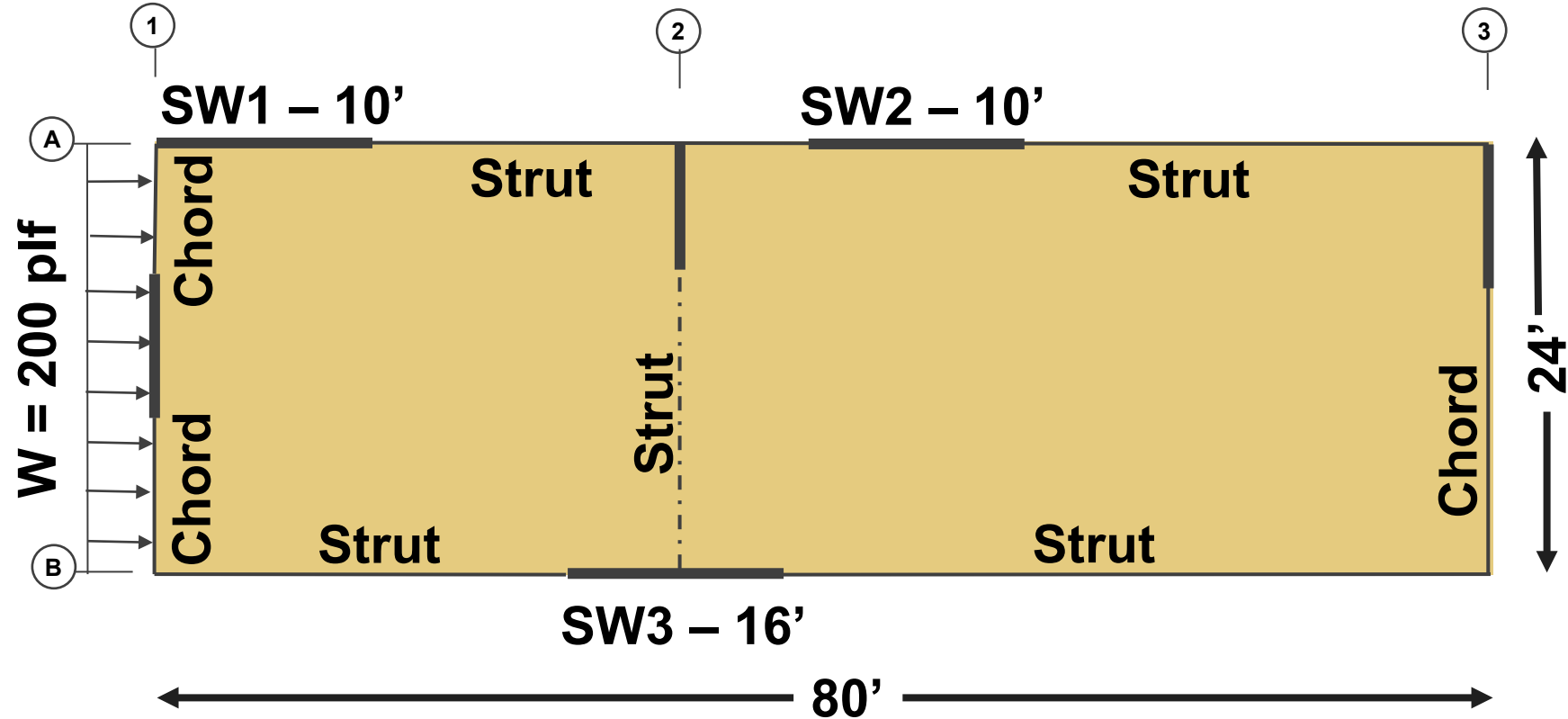


$$\text{Reaction} = 200 \text{ plf} * 24' / 2 = 2400 \text{ lbs}$$

$$\text{Diaphragm Only at Shearwall} = 2400 \text{ lbs} / 16' = 150 \text{ plf}$$



# Diaphragm Boundary



Does this mean that no drag struts are required?

# Diaphragm Boundary

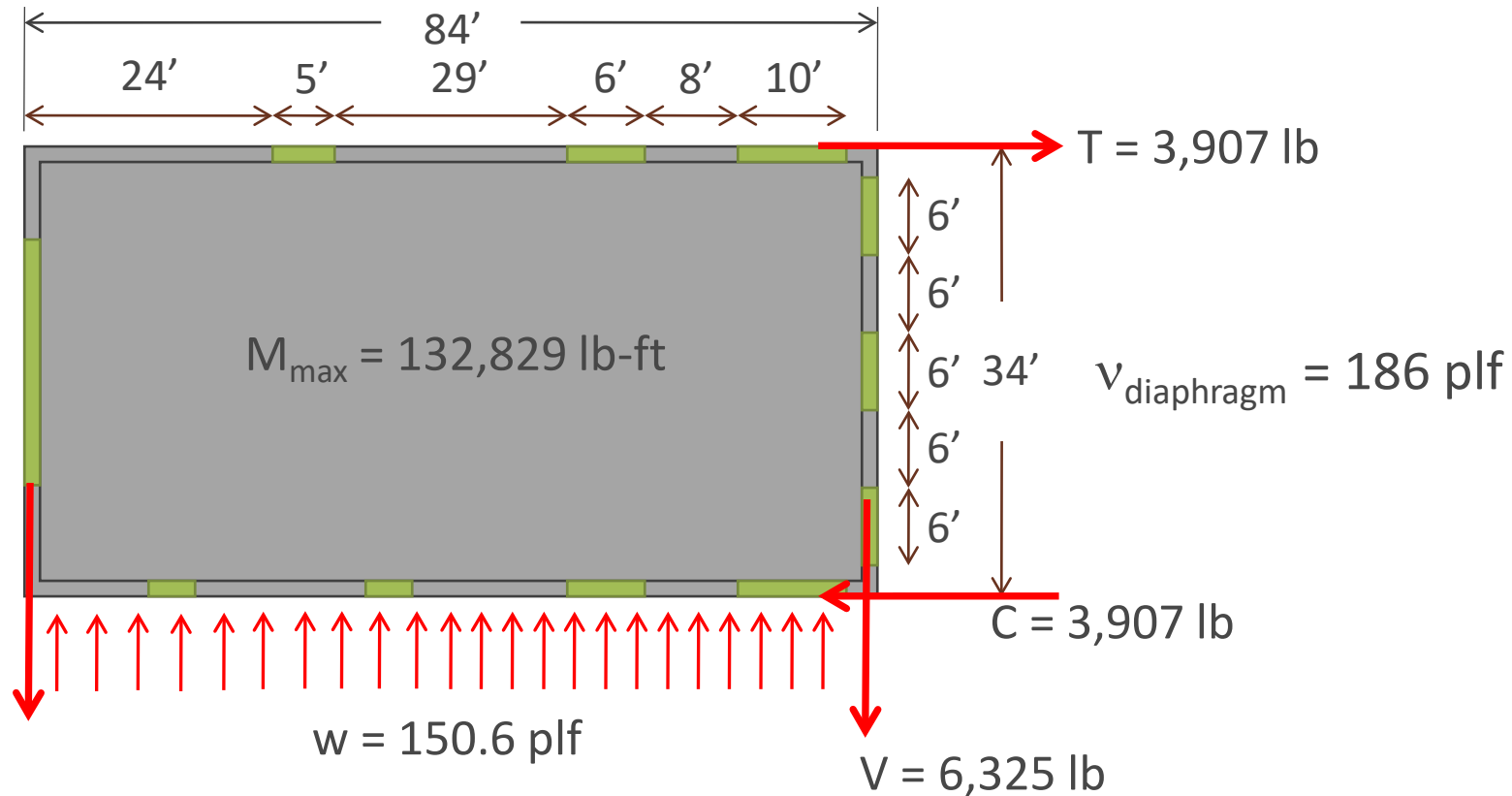
---

**All edges of a diaphragm shall be supported by a boundary element. (ASCE 7-10 Section 11.2)**

- **Diaphragm Boundary Elements:**
  - **Chords, drag struts, collectors, Shear walls, frames**
  - **Boundary member locations:**
    - **Diaphragm and shear wall perimeters**
    - **Interior openings**
    - **Areas of discontinuity**
    - **Re-entrant corners.**

# Diaphragm Design - Deflection

Assume 7/16" OSB Sheathing with 24/16 Span Rating. Unblocked diaphragm with 8d common nails at 6" o.c. at all panel edges. Spruce Pine Fir trusses spaced 24" o.c.



See SDPWS example C4.2.2-3 & APA L350 for design examples



# Diaphragm Design – Deflection

**From SDPWS commentary:**

*The total mid-span deflection of a blocked, uniformly nailed (e.g. same panel edge nailing) wood structural panel diaphragm can be calculated by summing the effects of four sources of deflection:*

- *Framing bending deflection*
- *Panel shear deflection*
- *Deflection from nail slip*
- *Deflection due to chord splice slip*

SDPWS equation C4.2.2-1:

$$\delta_{dia} = \frac{\overset{\substack{\text{(bending, chord} \\ \text{deformation} \\ \text{excluding slip)}}}{5vL^3}}{8EAW} + \frac{\overset{\substack{\text{(shear, panel} \\ \text{deformation)}}}{vL}}{4G_v t_v} + \overset{\substack{\text{(shear, panel} \\ \text{nail slip)}}}{0.188Le_n} + \frac{\overset{\substack{\text{(bending, chord} \\ \text{splice slip)}}{\sum (x\Delta_c)}}{2W}} \quad (\text{C4.2.2-1})$$

# Diaphragm Design – Deflection

*(bending, chord deformation excluding slip)*   
 *(shear, panel deformation)*   
 *(shear, panel nail slip)*   
 *(bending, chord splice slip)*

$$\delta_{dia} = \frac{5vL^3}{8EAW} + \frac{vL}{4G_v t_v} + 0.188Le_n + \frac{\sum(x\Delta_c)}{2W} \quad (C4.2.2-1)$$

$v$  = max unit shear in diaphragm - plf

$L$  = diaphragm length (perpendicular to force) - ft

$E$  = modulus of elasticity of diaphragm chords - psi

$A$  = area of chord (cross section) - in<sup>2</sup>

$W$  = Width of diaphragm in direction of applied force - ft

$G_v t_v$  = shear stiffness, lb/in of panel depth

$x$  = distance from chord splice to nearest support - ft

$\Delta_c$  = diaphragm chord splice slip - in

$e_n$  = nail slip - in

*(bending, chord deformation excluding slip)*   
 *(shear, panel shear and nail slip)*   
 *(bending, chord splice slip)*

*Alternate Equation*

$$\delta_{dia} = \frac{5vL^3}{8EAW} + \frac{0.25vL}{1000G_a} + \frac{\sum(x\Delta_c)}{2W} \quad (C4.2.2-2)$$

# Diaphragm Design – Deflection

(bending, chord  
deformation  
excluding slip)

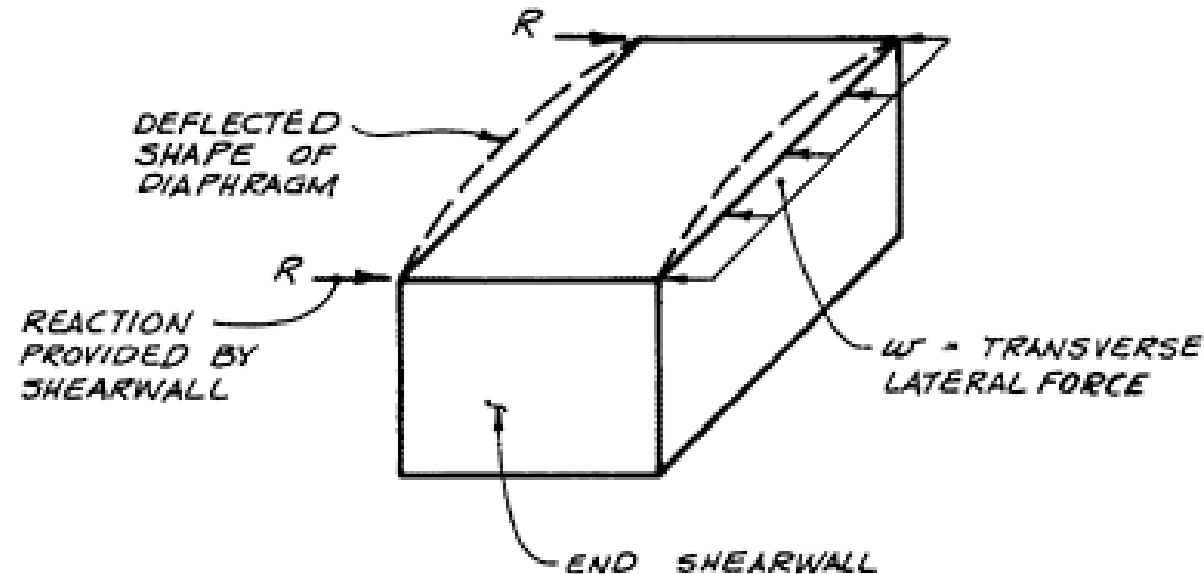
(shear, panel  
deformation)

(shear, panel  
nail slip)

(bending, chord  
splice slip)

$$\delta_{dia} = \frac{5vL^3}{8EAW} + \frac{vL}{4G_v t_v} + 0.188Le_n + \frac{\sum (x\Delta_c)}{2W} \quad (C4.2.2-1)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta_{\text{bending}} &= 5vL^3 / 8EAW \\ &= 5 * (186 \text{ plf}) * (84')^3 / [8 * (1,400,000 \text{ psi}) * (2 * 1.5'' * 5.5'') * (34')] \\ &= 0.088'' \end{aligned}$$



# Diaphragm Design – Deflection

(bending, chord deformation excluding slip)    (shear, panel deformation)    (shear, panel nail slip)    (bending, chord splice slip)

$$\delta_{dia} = \frac{5vL^3}{8EAW} + \frac{vL}{4G_v t_v} + 0.188Le_n + \frac{\sum (x\Delta_c)}{2W} \quad (C4.2.2-1)$$

$$\Delta_{shear} = vL / 4G_v t_v$$

SDPWS Table C4.2.2A:

$$\begin{aligned} G_v t_v &= 83,500 \text{ lb/in of depth for } 7/16'' \text{ OSB, } 24/16 \text{ span rating} \\ &= (186 \text{ plf}) * (84') / [4 * 83,500] \\ &= 0.047'' \end{aligned}$$

**Table C4.2.2A Shear Stiffness,  $G_v t_v$  (lb/in. of depth), for Wood Structural Panels**

Span Rating <sup>4</sup>	Minimum Nominal Panel Thickness (in.)	Structural Sheathing				Structural I			
		Plywood			OSB	Plywood			OSB
		3-ply	4-ply	5-ply <sup>3</sup>		3-ply	4-ply	5-ply <sup>3</sup>	
Sheathing Grades <sup>1</sup>									
24/0	3/8 <sup>2</sup>	25,000	32,500	37,500	77,500	32,500	42,500	41,500	77,500
24/16	7/16	27,000	35,000	40,500	83,500	35,000	45,500	44,500	83,500
32/16	15/32	27,000	35,000	40,500	83,500	35,000	45,500	44,500	83,500
40/20	19/32	28,500	37,000	43,000	88,500	37,000	48,000	47,500	88,500
48/24	23/32	31,000	40,500	46,500	96,000	40,500	52,500	51,000	96,000



# Diaphragm Design – Deflection

(bending, chord deformation excluding slip)    (shear, panel deformation)    (shear, panel nail slip)    (bending, chord splice slip)

$$\delta_{dia} = \frac{5vL^3}{8EAW} + \frac{vL}{4G_v t_v} + \boxed{0.188Le_n} + \frac{\sum (x\Delta_c)}{2W} \quad (C4.2.2-1)$$

$$\Delta_{\text{panel nail slip}} = 0.188Le_n$$

$V_n$  = load per nail = 186 plf / (12/6") = 93 lbs per nail    (panel nails spaced 6" o.c.)

$e_n = (V_n / 616)^{3.018}$     \*\*per footnote in SDPWS Table C4.2.2D, slip needs to be increased by 20% when OSB is not Structural I grade

$$e_n = 1.2 * (V_n / 616)^{3.018} = 1.2 * (93 / 616)^{3.018} = 0.004"$$

$$\Delta_{\text{panel nail slip}} = 0.188 * 84' * 0.004" = \boxed{0.063"}$$

**Table C4.2.2D    Fastener Slip,  $e_n$  (in.)**

Sheathing	Fastener Size	Maximum Fastener Load ( $V_n$ ) (lb/fastener)	Fastener Slip, $e_n$ (in.)	
			Fabricated w/green (>19% m.c.) lumber	Fabricated w/dry ( $\leq$ 19% m.c.) lumber
Wood Structural Panel (WSP) or Particleboard <sup>1</sup>	6d common	180	$(V_n/434)^{2.314}$	$(V_n/456)^{3.144}$
	8d common	220	$(V_n/857)^{1.869}$	$(V_n/616)^{3.018}$
	10d common	260	$(V_n/977)^{1.894}$	$(V_n/769)^{3.276}$

# Diaphragm Design – Deflection

*(bending, chord deformation excluding slip)*   
 *(shear, panel deformation)*   
 *(shear, panel nail slip)*   
 *(bending, chord splice slip)*

$$\delta_{dia} = \frac{5vL^3}{8EAW} + \frac{vL}{4G_v t_v} + 0.188Le_n + \boxed{\frac{\sum (x\Delta_c)}{2W}} \quad (C4.2.2-1)$$

$$\Delta_{\text{chord splice}} = \Sigma(x\Delta_c) / 2W$$

$\Delta_c = 2(T \text{ or } C) / \gamma n$    
 (*the 2 in the numerator is to account for splice slip on each side of the joint*)

$\gamma$  = load/slip modulus for connection = 180,000( $D^{1.5}$ ) for dowel-type fasteners (wood-to-wood) *NDS 11.3.6*   
 $D$  = diameter of dowel-type fastener (*16d common*)

$$\gamma = 180,000(0.162^{1.5}) = 11,737 \text{ lb/in/nail}$$

$$\Delta_{c3} = 2(3,827 \text{ lb}) / (11,737 * 21) = 0.031''$$

$$\Delta_{c2} = 2(3,189 \text{ lb}) / (11,737 * 21) = 0.026''$$

$$\Delta_{c1} = 2(1,914 \text{ lb}) / (11,737 * 21) = 0.016''$$

$$T_3 = 130,829 \text{ lb-ft} / 34 = 3,827 \text{ lb}$$

$$T_2 = 108,432 \text{ lb-ft} / 34 = 3,189 \text{ lb}$$

$$T_1 = 65,058 \text{ lb-ft} / 34 = 1,914 \text{ lb}$$

# Diaphragm Design – Deflection

*(bending, chord  
deformation  
excluding slip)*

*(shear, panel  
deformation)*

*(shear, panel  
nail slip)*

*(bending, chord  
splice slip)*

$$\delta_{dia} = \frac{5vL^3}{8EAW} + \frac{vL}{4G_v t_v} + 0.188Le_n + \boxed{\frac{\sum (x\Delta_c)}{2W}} \quad (C4.2.2-1)$$

$$x*\Delta_{\text{tension chord}} = 12' * 0.016'' + 24' * 0.026'' + 36' * 0.031'' + 36' * 0.031'' + 24' * 0.026'' + 12' * 0.016''$$

$$x*\Delta_{\text{tension chord}} = 3.86 \text{ in-ft}$$

# Diaphragm Design – Deflection

(bending, chord  
deformation  
excluding slip)

(shear, panel  
deformation)

(shear, panel  
nail slip)

(bending, chord  
splice slip)

$$\delta_{dia} = \frac{5vL^3}{8EAW} + \frac{vL}{4G_v t_v} + 0.188Le_n + \boxed{\frac{\sum (x\Delta_c)}{2W}} \quad (C4.2.2-1)$$

*From SDPWS: Assuming butt joints in the compression chord are not tight and have a gap that exceeds the splice slip, the tension chord slip calculation is also applicable to the compression chord.*

$$x^* \Delta_{\text{tension chord}} = x^* \Delta_{\text{tension chord}} = 3.86 \text{ in-ft}$$

$$\Delta_{\text{chord splice}} = \frac{3.86 + 3.86}{2 (34')}$$

$$\Delta_{\text{chord splice}} = 0.114''$$

$$\delta_{dia} = (0.088 + 0.047 + 0.063 + 0.114) 2.5 \quad (2.5 \text{ to account for unblocked diaphragm})$$

$$\delta_{dia} = 0.78''$$



# Flexibility and Redundancy Design Challenges



16 Powerhouse, Sacramento, CA  
D&S Development  
LPA Sacramento

A variety of challenges often occur on projects due to:

- Fewer opportunities for shear walls at exterior wall lines which cause Open-front diaphragm conditions
- Increased building heights, and
- Potential multi-story shear wall effects.

In mid-rise, multi-family buildings, corridor only shear walls are becoming very popular way to address the lack of capable exterior shear walls.

For guidance on how to analyze a double open-front, or corridor only shear wall diaphragm, and help engineers better understand flexibility issues associated with these types of structures, see Malone webinar series Feb 2020.

The analysis techniques provided in those presentations are intended to demonstrate one method of analysis, but not the only means of analysis.



Codes and Standards

# Rigid or Flexible Diaphragm?

---

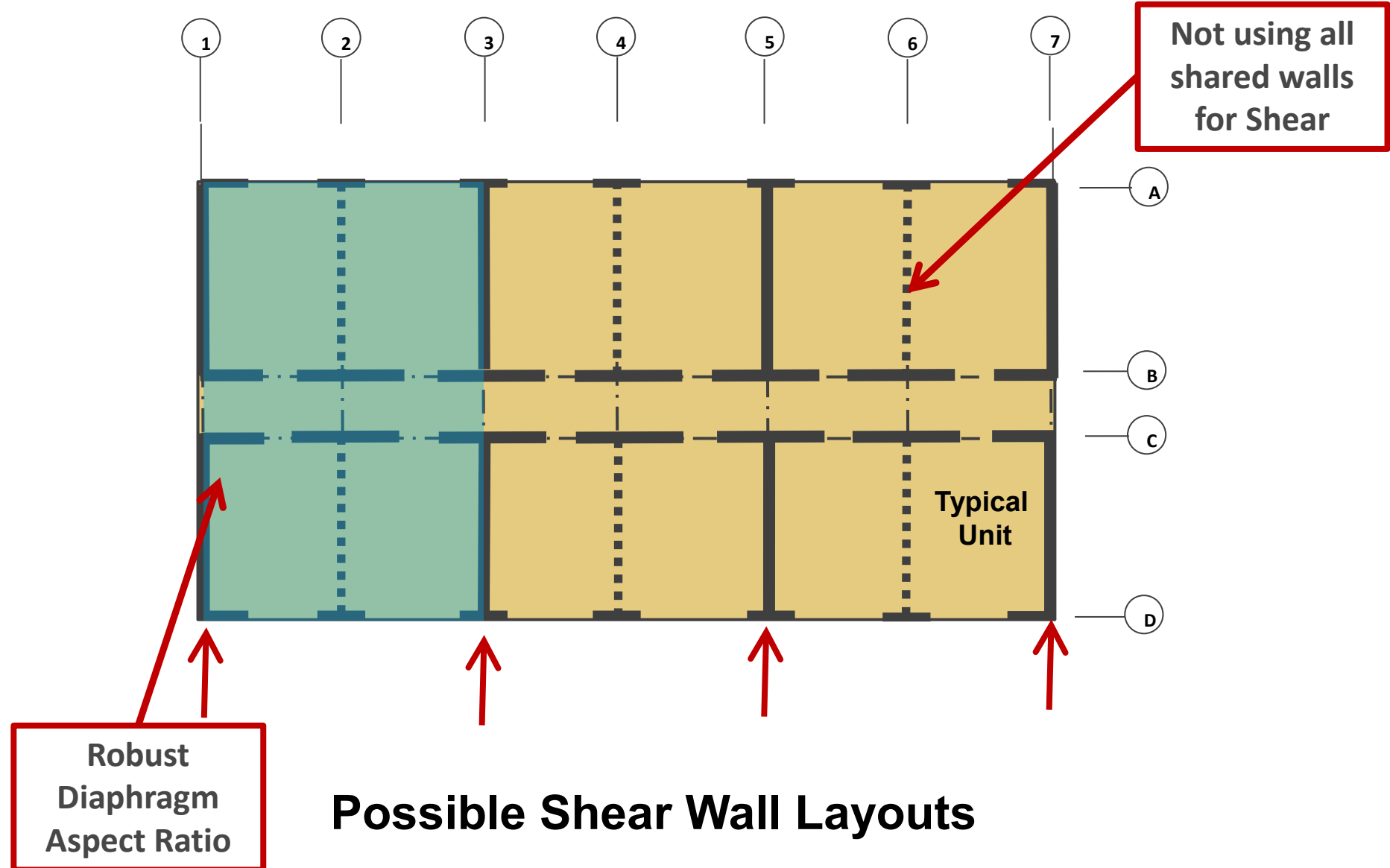
## Light Frame Wood Diaphragms often default to Flexible Diaphragms

**Code Basis: ASCE 7-10 26.2 Definitions (Wind)**

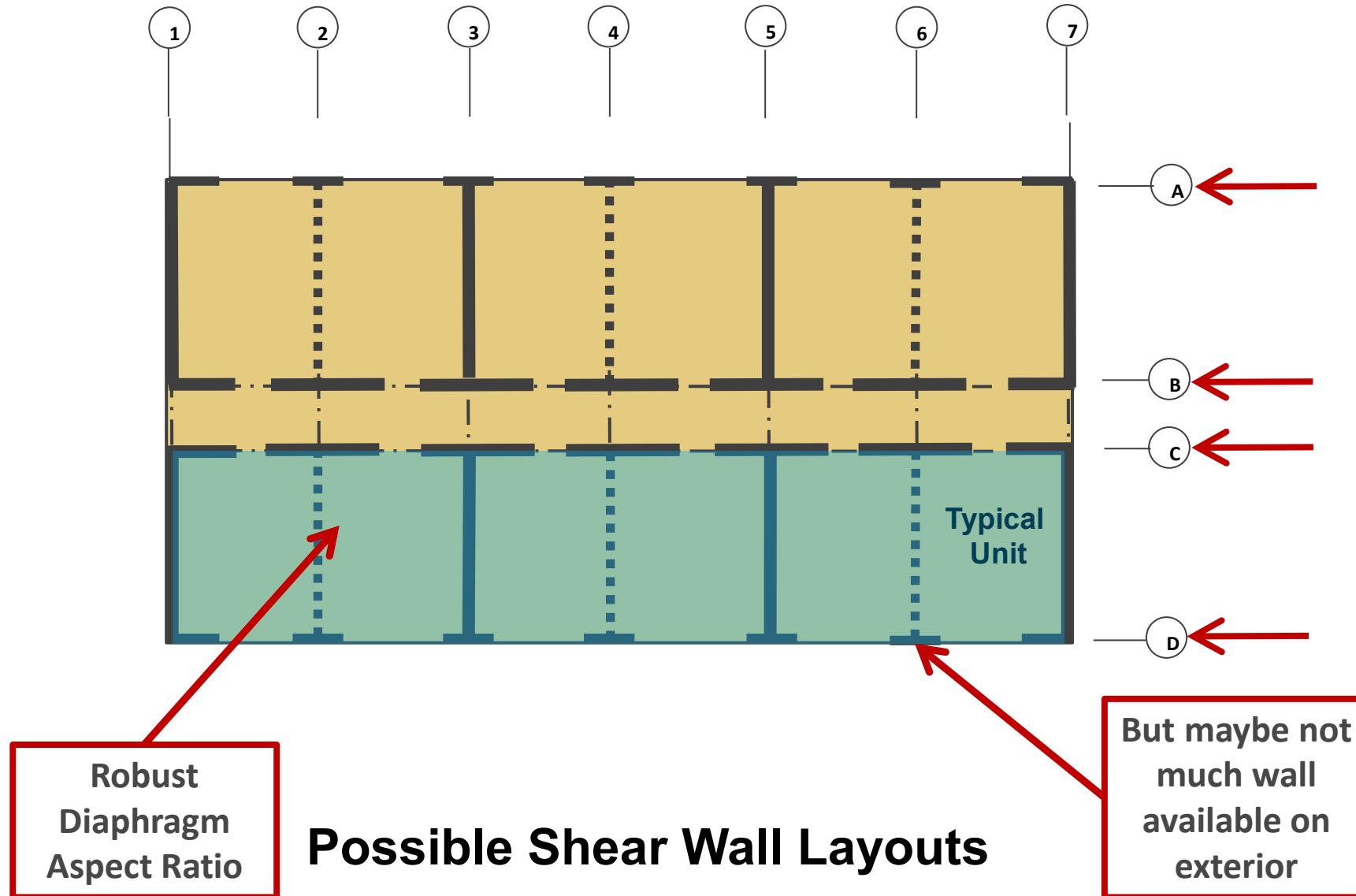
*Diaphragms constructed of wood structural panels are permitted to be idealized as flexible*



# Diaphragm Modeling Methods



# Diaphragm Modeling Methods





# Rigid or Flexible Diaphragm?

---

## **Light Frame Wood Diaphragms often default to Flexible Diaphragms**

### **Code Basis: ASCE 7-10 26.2 Definitions (Wind)**

*Diaphragms constructed of wood structural panels are permitted to be idealized as flexible*

### **Code Basis: ASCE 7-10 12.3.1.1 (Seismic)**

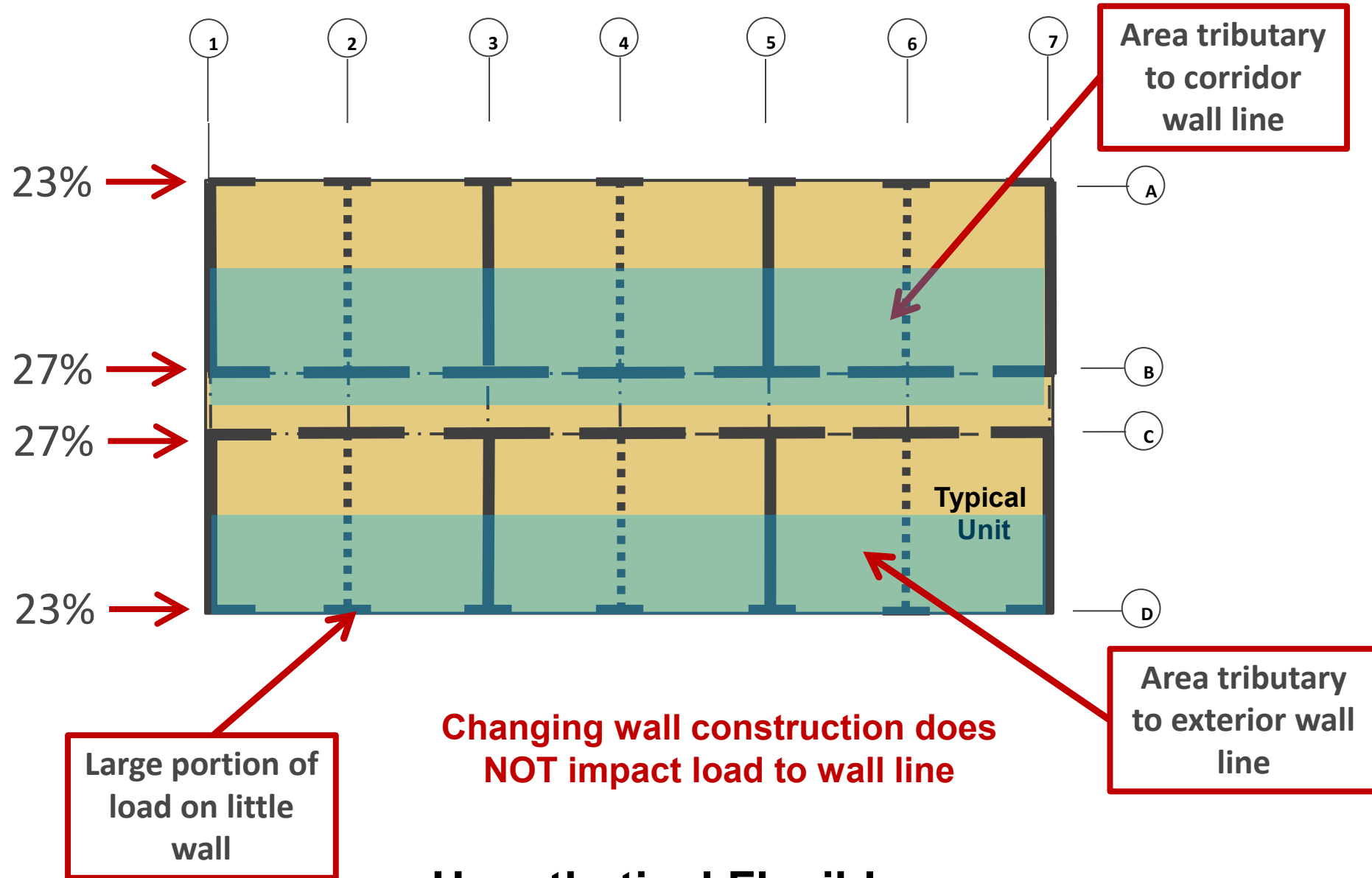
*Diaphragms constructed of untopped steel decking or wood structural panels are permitted to be idealized as flexible if any of the following conditions exist:*

*[...]*

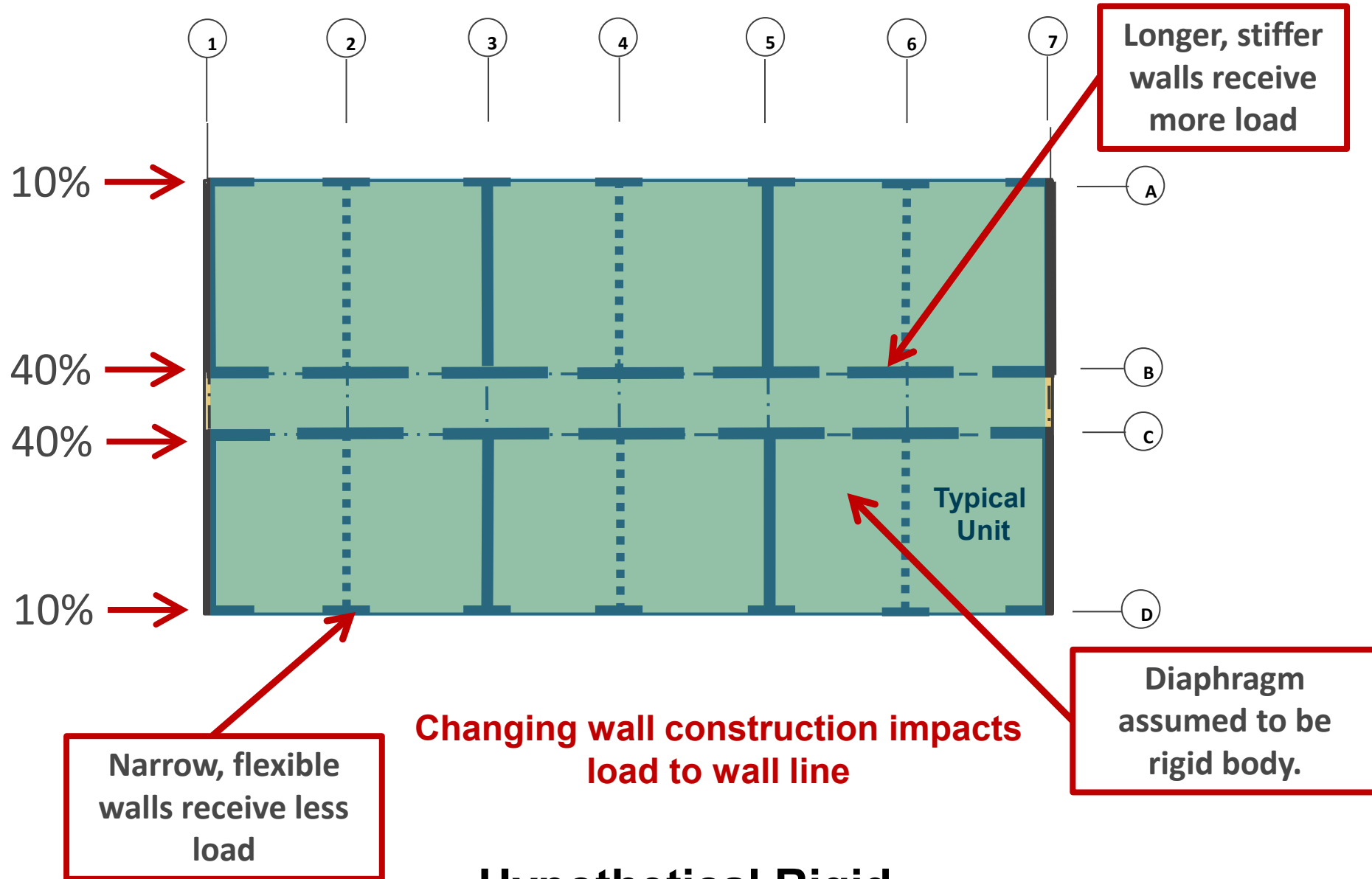
*c. In structures of light-frame construction where all of the following conditions are met:*

- 1. Topping of concrete or similar materials is not placed over wood structural panel diaphragms except for nonstructural topping no greater than 1 1/2 in. thick.*

- 2. Each line of vertical elements of the seismic force resisting system complies with the allowable story drift of Table 12.12-1..*



## Hypothetical Flexible Diaphragm Distribution



## Hypothetical Rigid Diaphragm Distribution

# Can a Rigid Diaphragm be Justified?

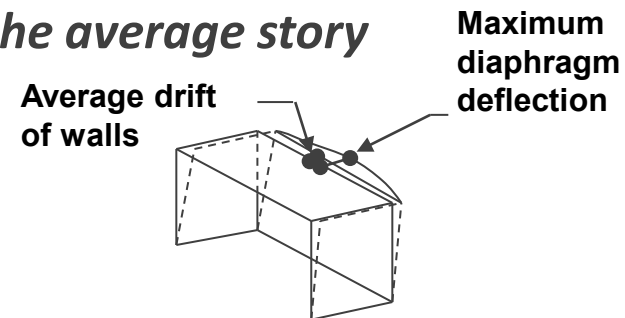
---

## ASCE 7-10 12.3.1.3 (Seismic)

*[Diaphragms] are permitted to be idealized as **flexible** where the computed maximum **in-plane deflection of the diaphragm under lateral load is more than two times the average story drift of adjoining vertical elements of the seismic force-resisting system of the associated story under equivalent tributary lateral load as shown in Fig. 12.3-1.***

## IBC 2012 Chapter 2 Definition (Wind & Seismic)

*A diaphragm is **rigid** for the purpose of distribution of story shear and torsional moment when the **lateral deformation of the diaphragm is less than or equal to two times the average story drift.***





# Two More Diaphragm Approaches

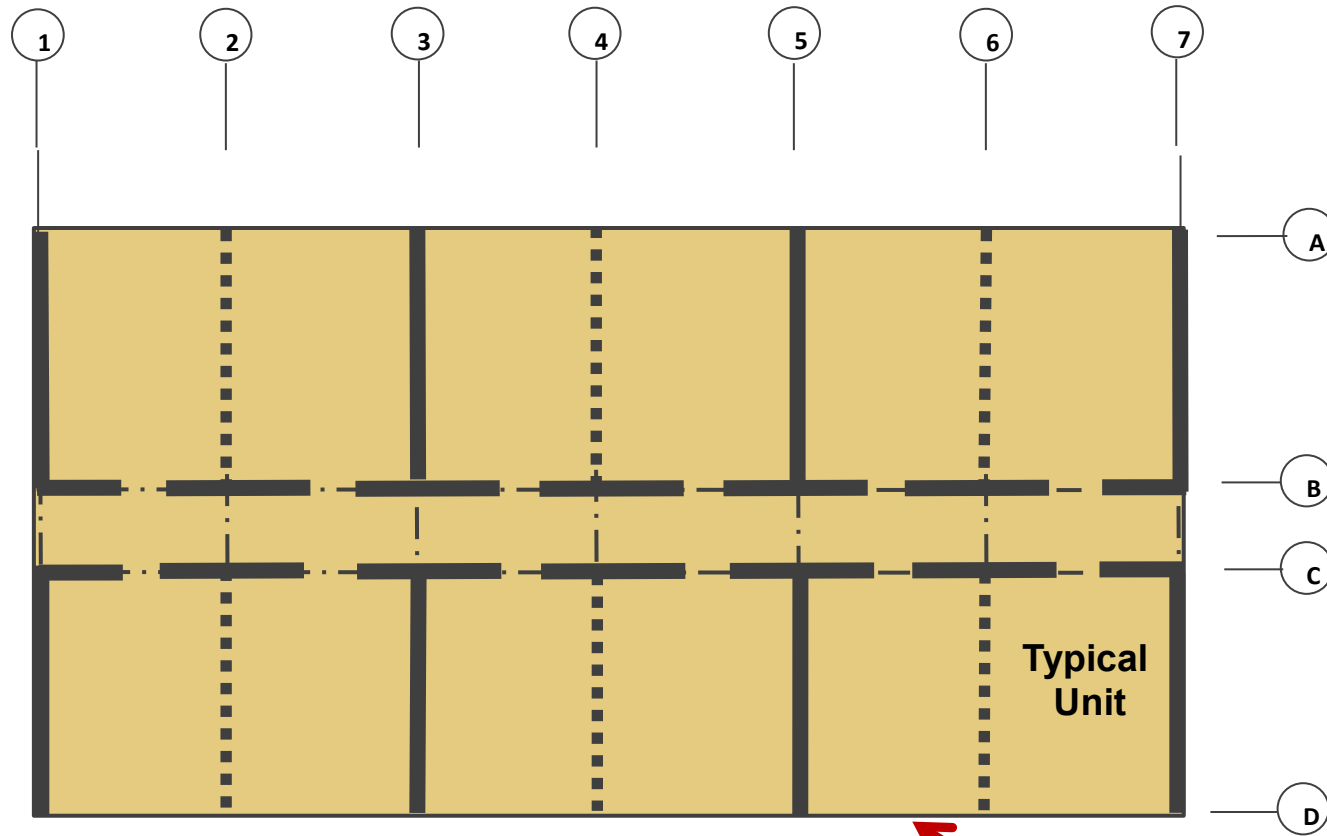
---

## **Semi-Rigid Diaphragm Analysis**

- Neither idealized flexible nor idealized rigid
- Explicit modeling of diaphragm deformations with shear wall deformations to distribute lateral loads
- Not easy

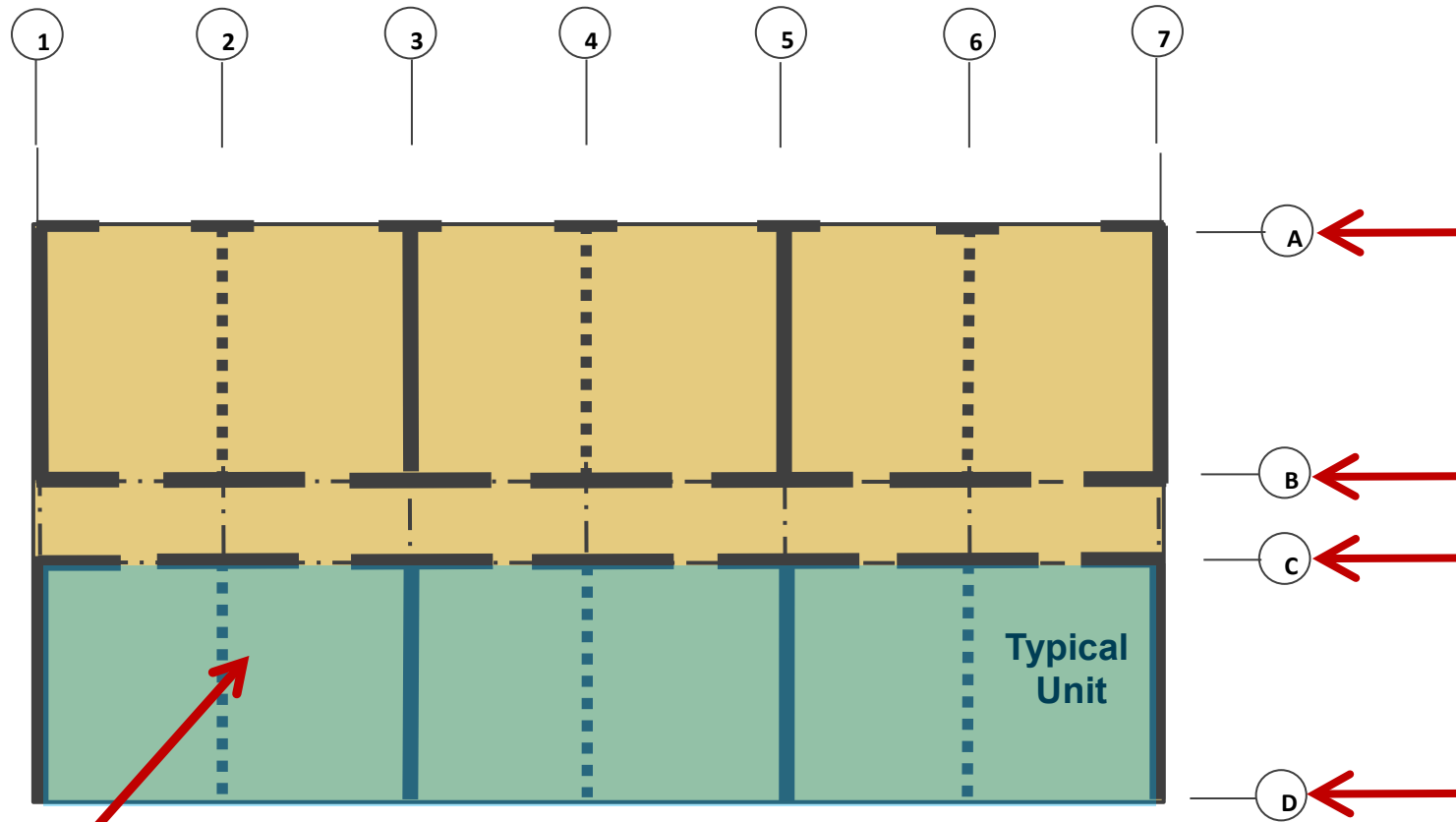
## **Enveloping Method**

- Idealized as BOTH flexible and rigid.
- Individual components designed for worst case from each approach
- Been around a while, officially recognized in the 2015 SDPWS



## Possible Shear Wall Layouts

The Cantilever  
Diaphragm  
Option

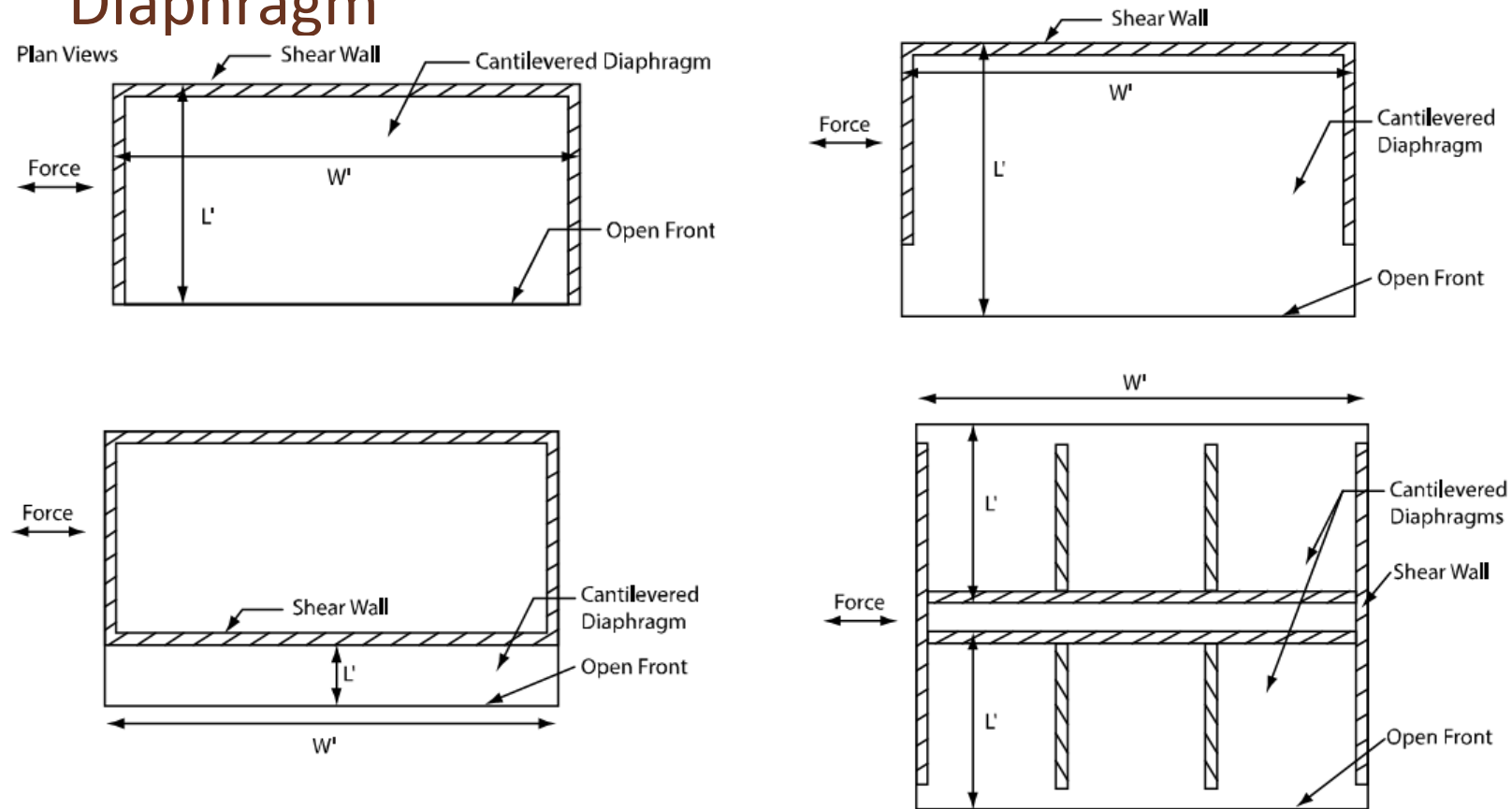


Robust Aspect  
Ratio but only  
supported on  
3 sides...

## Possible Shear Wall Layouts

# Cantilevered Diaphragms in SDPWS 2015

- Open Front Structure with a Cantilevered Diaphragm



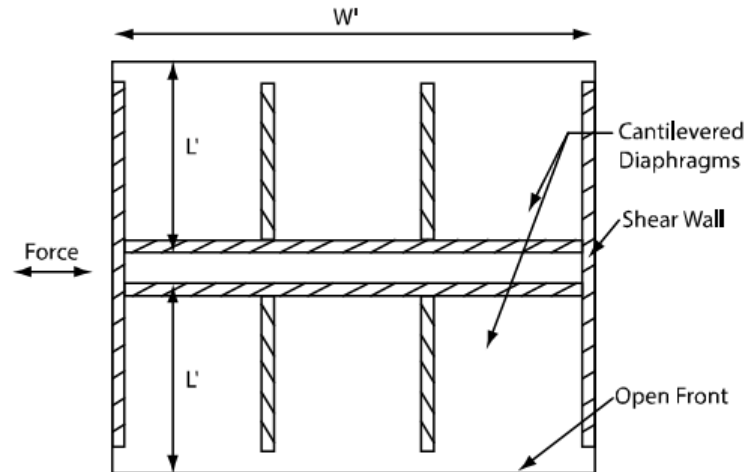
AWC SDPWS 2015 Figure 4A



# Open Front Structure & Cantilevered Diaphragms in SDPWS 2015

---

## Cantilevered Diaphragm



## SDPWS 4.2.5.2

$$L'/W' \leq 1.5$$

When Torsionally Irregular

$$L'/W' \leq 1, \text{ one story}$$

$$2/3, \text{ multi-}$$

story

$$L' \leq 35 \text{ ft}$$

Provided diaphragms modelled as rigid or semi-rigid and for seismic, the story drift at each edge of the structure within allowable story drift of ASCE 7. Story drifts include torsion and accidental torsional loads and deformations of the diaphragm.

D E S I G N E X A M P L E

## Five-Story Wood-Frame Structure over Podium Slab



Developed for WoodWorks by  
**Douglas S. Thompson, PE, SE, SECB**  
STB Structural Engineers, Inc.  
Lake Forest, CA

D E S I G N E X A M P L E

## A Design Example of a Cantilever Wood Diaphragm



Photo: Richard Lubant

Developed for WoodWorks by  
**R. Terry Malone, PE, SE**  
**Scott Breneman, PhD, PE, SE**



Photo: Andrew Pogue

Photos: TOP: Crescent Terminus, Architect: Lord Aeck Sargent, Engineer: SCA Consulting Engineers, Location: Atlanta, GA  
INSET: Carbon 12, Architect: Path Architecture, Engineer: Munzig Structural Engineers, Location: Portland, OR



Wi





# Shear Wall to Podium Slab Interface

---

- Amplification of seismic forces is required for elements supporting discontinuous walls per ASCE 7-10 12.3.3.3
- Overstrength factor of 3 (may be reduced to 2.5 per footnote g of Table 12.2-1) is required
- Attachment to concrete slab must also conform to ACI 318 Appendix D
- Typically will be transitioning from ASD for wood design to LRFD for concrete design
- Hold down attachments to concrete options: embedded nuts or plates, sleeves through slab, welded studs & reinforcing





# Tie Down Attachment to Concrete

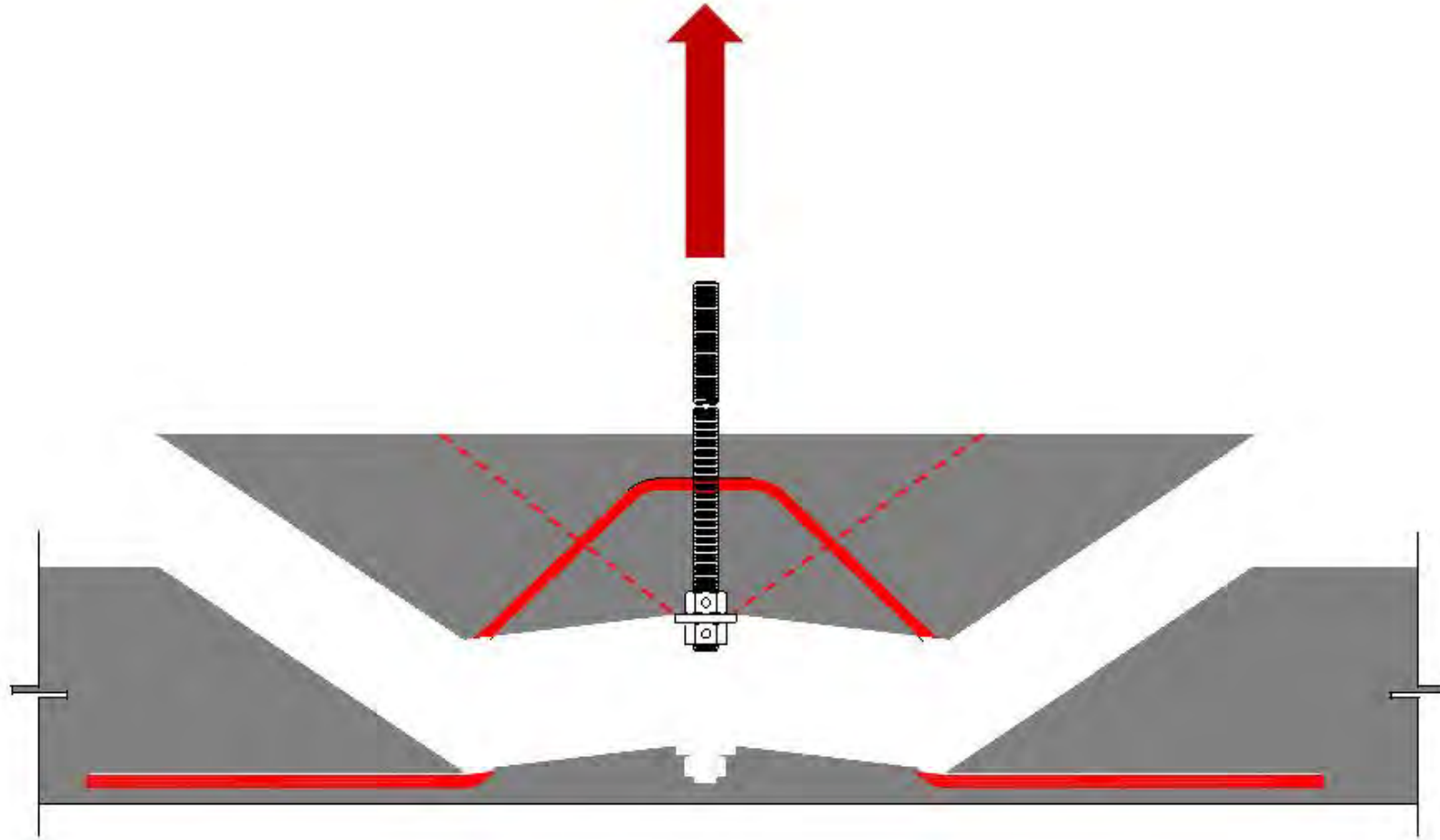
---



Source: Strongtie

# Tie Down Bolt with Washer

---



Source: Strongtie

# Tie Down Anchor Chair in Cast Slab

---



Source: Earthbound Anchors



# Embedded Steel Plates – Weld on Rods

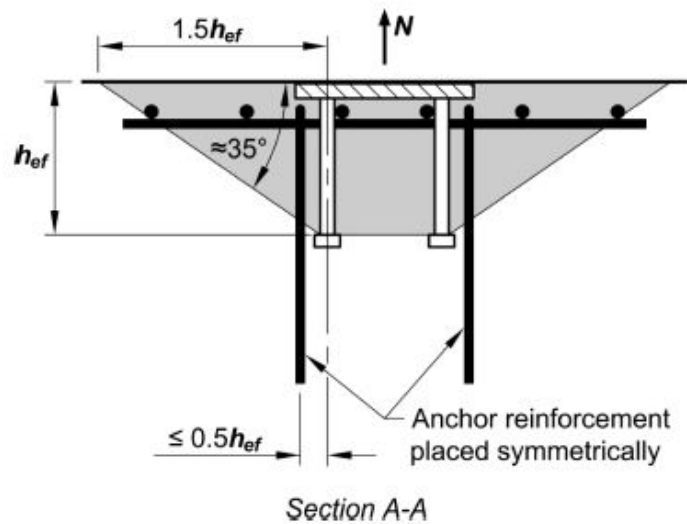
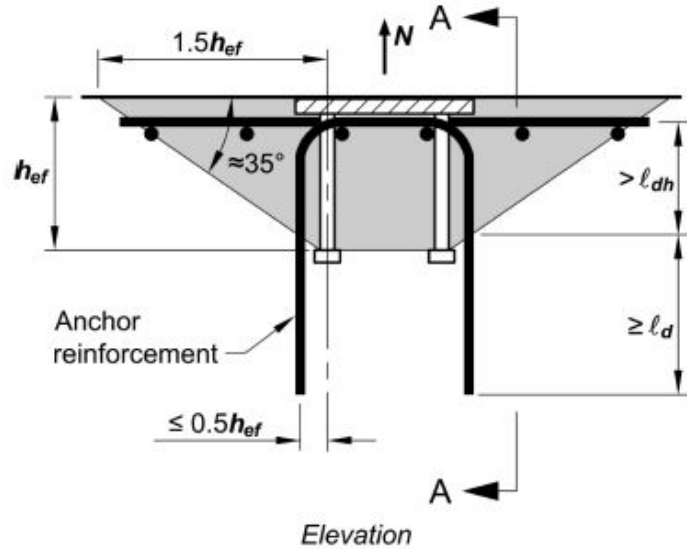
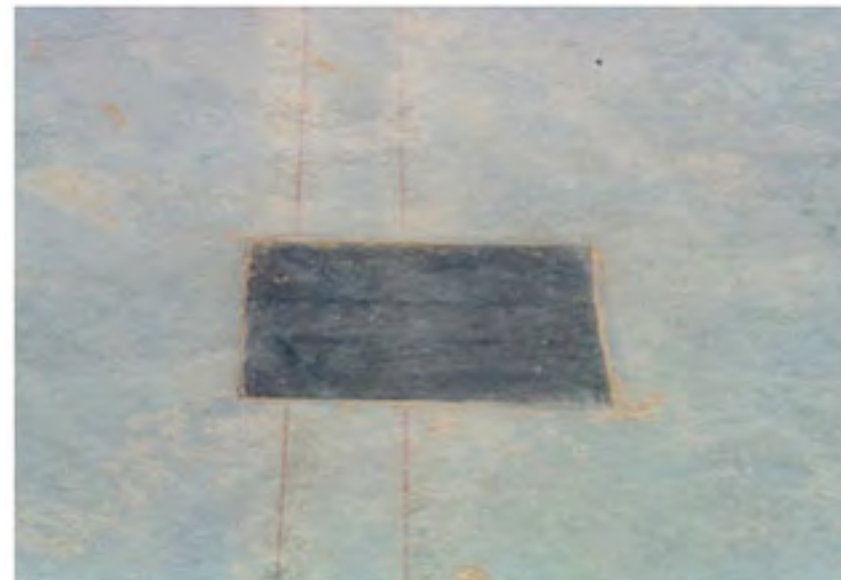


Fig. RD.5.2.9—Anchor reinforcement for tension.





# Tie Down Anchors – Precast Through Bolt

---



# Tie Down Anchors – Through Podium

---





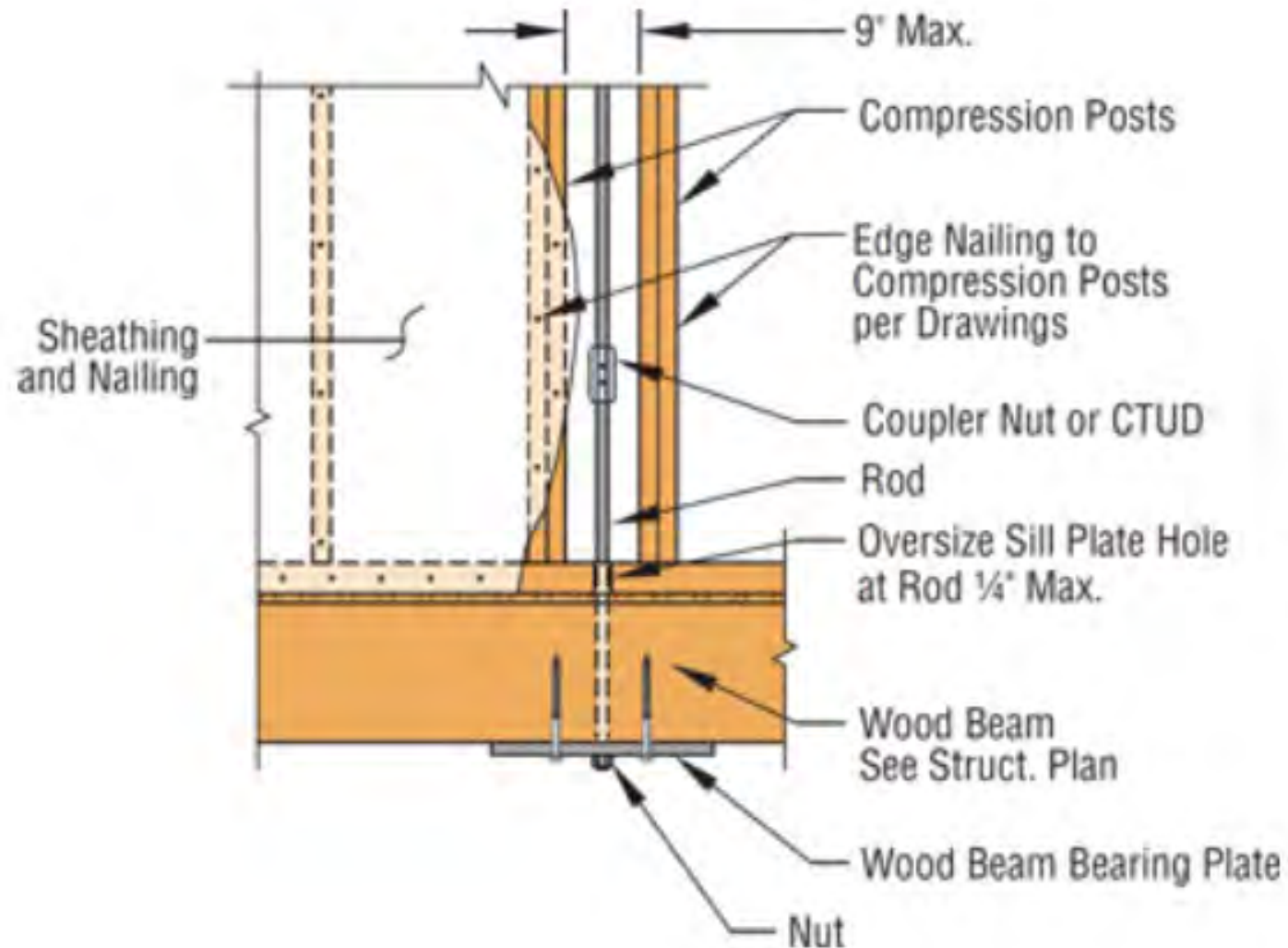
# Discontinuous Shear Walls



Karuna I  
Holst Architecture

Photo: Terry Malone

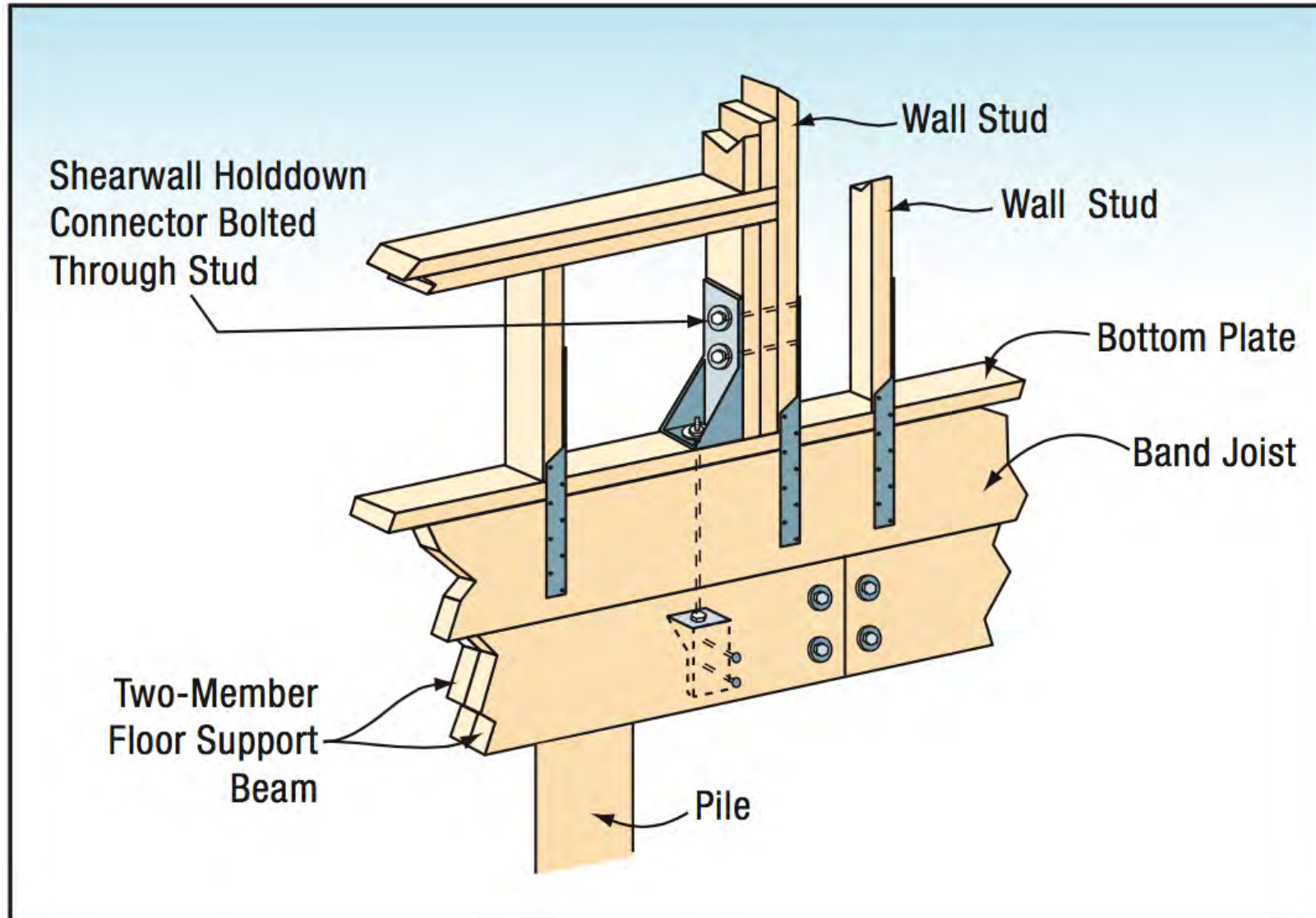
# Offset Shear Wall Overturning Resistance



Source: Strongtie

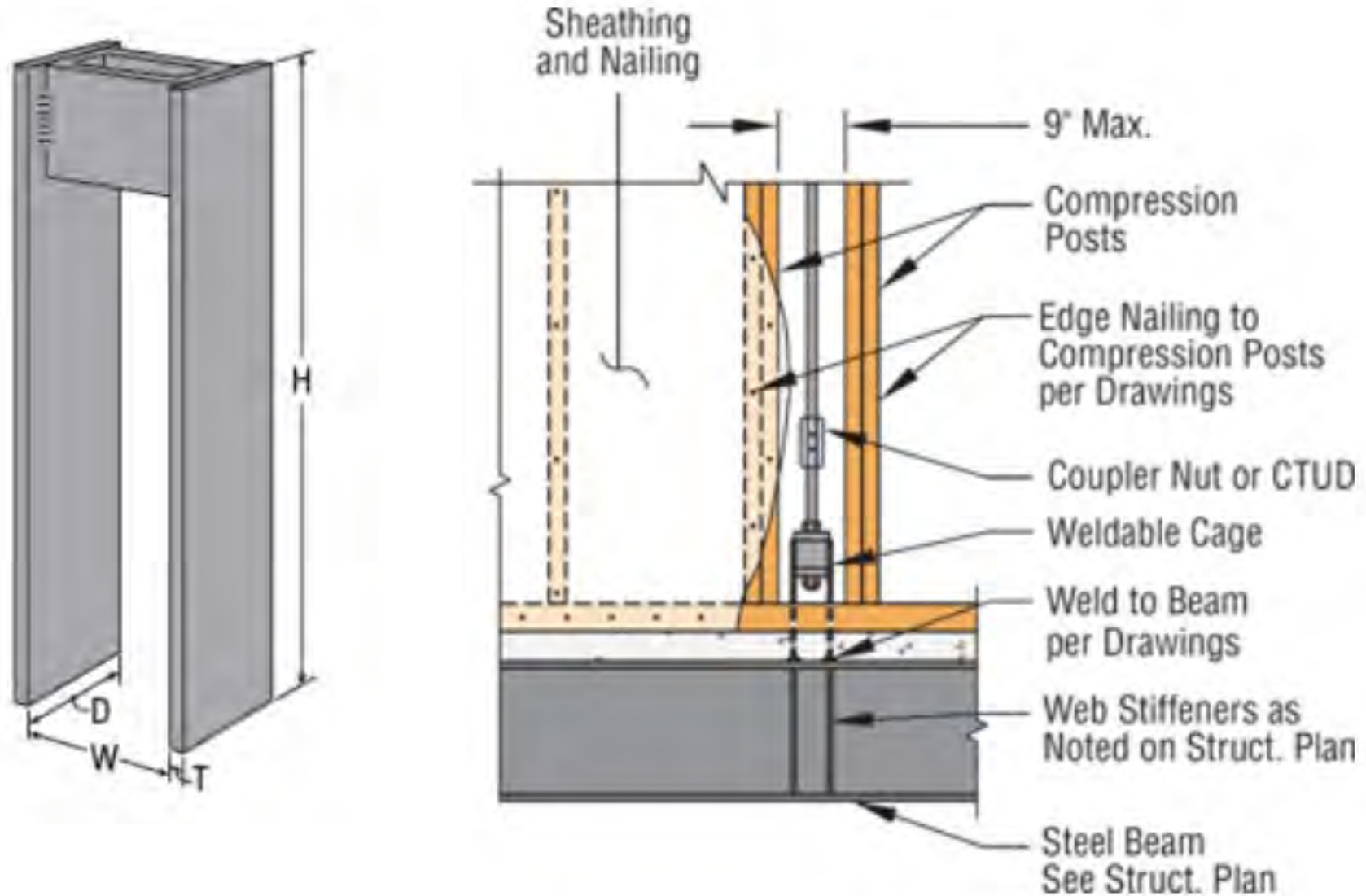


# Offset Shear Wall Overturning Resistance



Source: FEMA 55

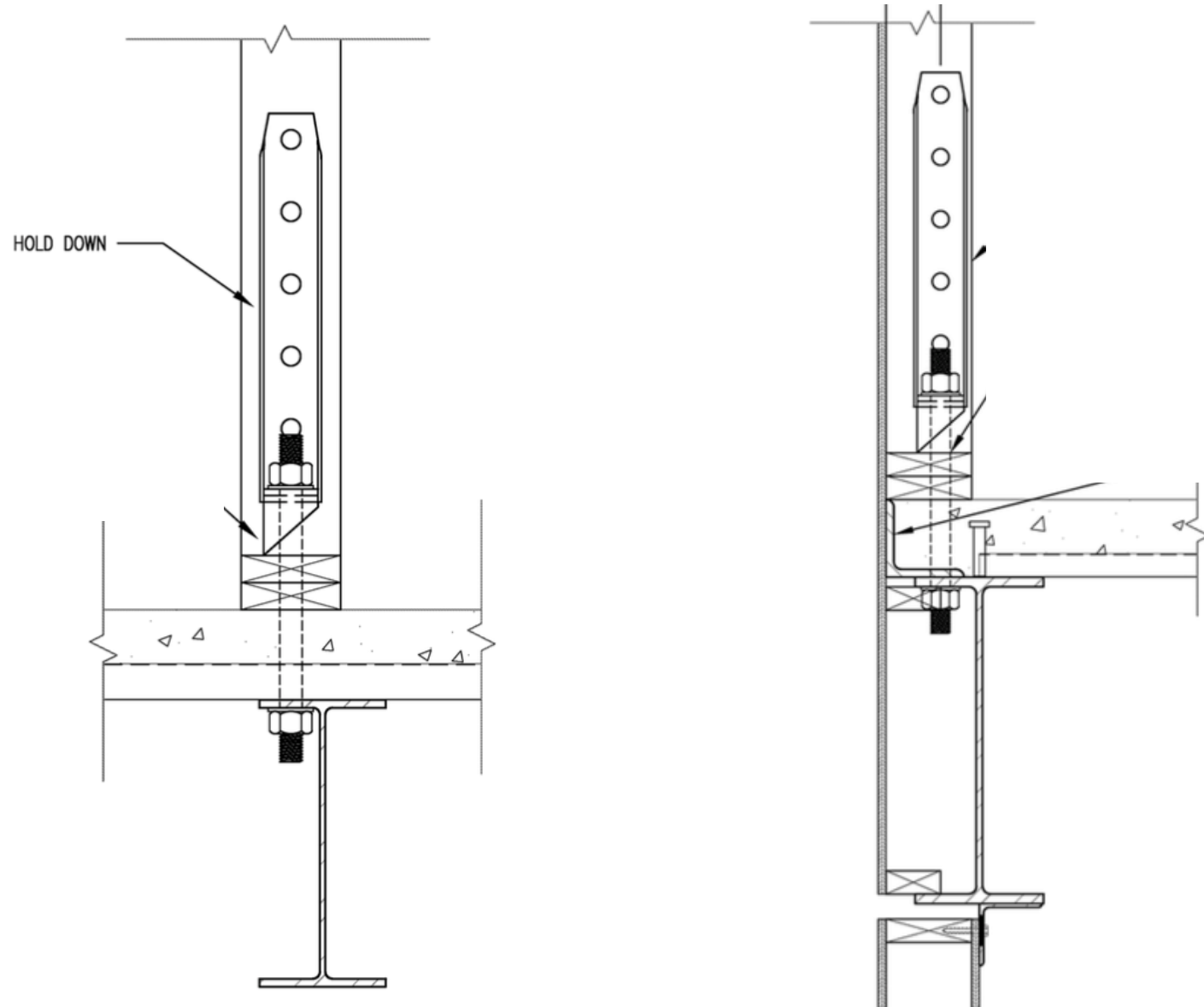
# Tie Down to Steel Beam Attachment



Source: Strongtie

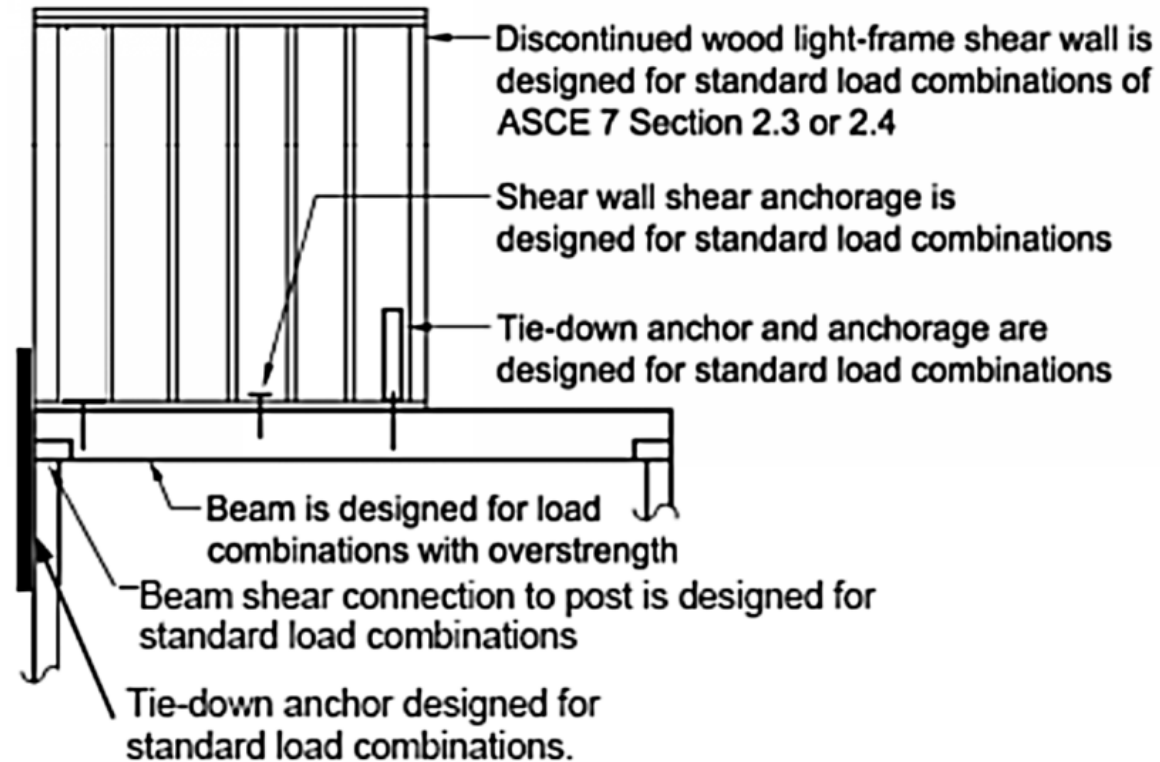
# Tie Down to Steel Beam Attachment

---



# Shear Wall to Podium Slab Interface

---



ASCE 7-10 Section 12.3.3.3 and Commentary C12.3.3.3 provides guidance on seismic load requirements for various elements supporting discontinuous shear walls





Photo: Brett Drury



# Questions? Contact us anytime!

**Marc Rivard, PE, SE**

(617) 997-3890

marc.rivard@woodworks.org

**Momo Sun, PE, PEng**

857-242-8975

momo.sun@woodworks.org

**Terry Pattillo, AIA**

(919) 995-6672

terryp@woodworks.org



**MARC RIVARD, PE, SE**

Regional Director  
MA, CT, ME, NH, RI, VT



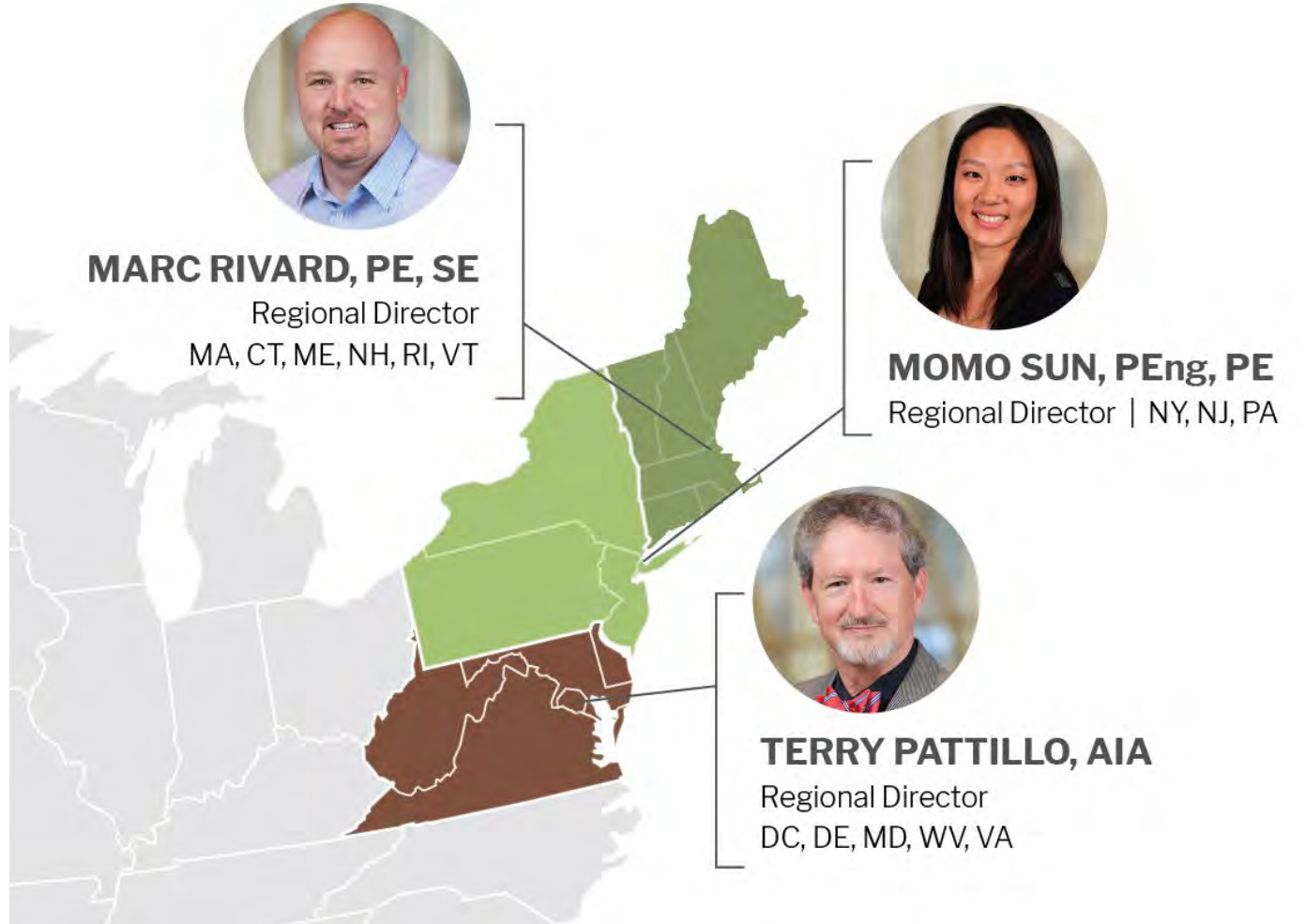
**MOMO SUN, PEng, PE**

Regional Director | NY, NJ, PA



**TERRY PATTILLO, AIA**

Regional Director  
DC, DE, MD, WV, VA





# Copyright Materials

This presentation is protected by US  
and International Copyright laws.  
Reproduction, distribution, display and use of  
the presentation without written permission  
of the speaker is prohibited.

© The Wood Products Council 2020