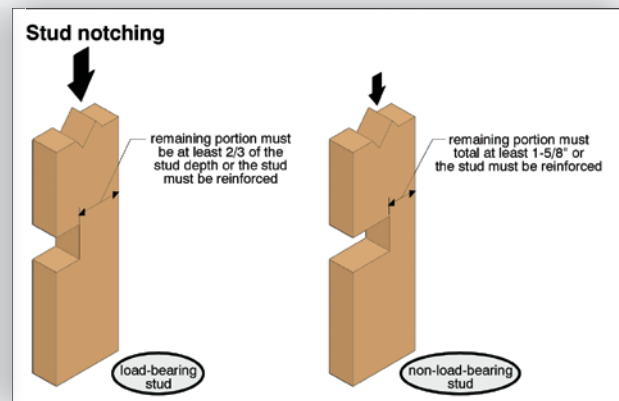
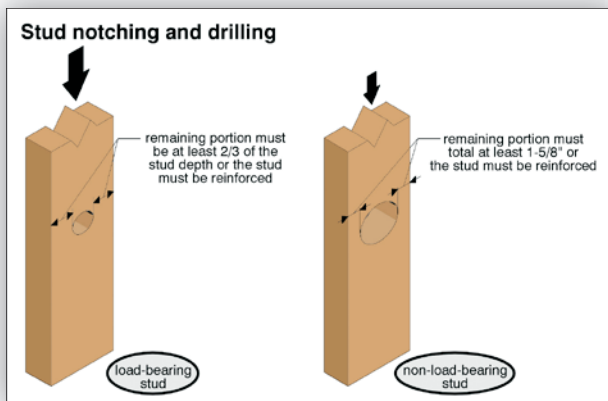
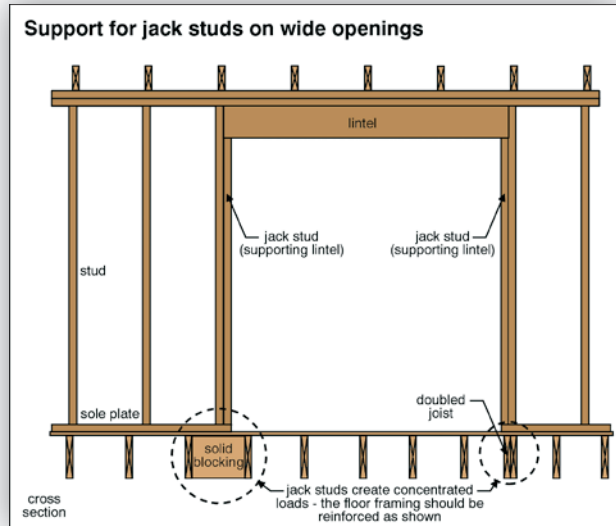


Common Problems with Wood Frame Walls

Rot, insect attack, mechanical damage, poor quality lumber, poor connections, design mistakes, poor workmanship and excessive spacing can all be problems.

POOR NAILING AND OPENING Inadequate nailing can lead to difficulties. Openings in walls may not be adequately framed. Wall sections above large openings for picture windows, for example, may sag if the openings are not bridged with appropriate support headers (some call these lintels).

NOTCHES AND HOLES Holes and notches can weaken studs if they are too large. The illustrations below provide some guidelines.



BUCKLING Some wood stud walls are susceptible to buckling under loads. This is particularly true if the walls are not braced with girts (blocking between studs near the mid-point) or if interior or exterior finishes are not provided. If finish is provided on one side of the wall, girts are not required.

Longer studs are more susceptible to buckling. This is easy to understand if you hold both ends of a yardstick and try and push the ends toward each other. The yardstick buckles very easily in the middle. This is more difficult with a six-inch ruler of the same material.

Where another floor level is to be added to a home, special consideration should be given to stud walls, which may not be strong enough to carry the added weight.