

Quick Reference Guide

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Version 24.0

Chapter 3 - Cutting Exterior Wall Plates

Identify Full-Length and Pre-Defined Plate Lengths	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Before cutting wall plates prepare a plate layout drawing to identify all full-length plates and any pre-defined plate lengths. Sketch the plate lengths on a printed copy of the main floor deck (usually created offsite prior to build day and stored in trailer. If not, obtain a copy of the main deck and lay out marks on it.) Once marked on the drawing, use these length specs to cut the actual plates.<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Full-length plates labeled +/- should be used without cutting.b. Plates labeled with exact dimension should be cut precisely to that dimension.<p>REQUIREMENT: Top plate joints MUST be over a stud or over door or window header.</p>2. Identify any 18-20 ft 2x6 lumber. Set aside 4 straightest, wrap in shrink wrap, label with red crayon, "Gable end use only."3. Note which walls are long (i.e., extend to the edge of the deck) and which are short.
Cut Long Wall Plates	<ol style="list-style-type: none">4. Starting at <u>zero</u> end of <u>LONG</u> wall, lay one end of upper and bottom plates 5½" past the short wall chalk line. Tack together with duplex nails.5. Cut and place the remaining upper and bottom plates per the <u>hand-drawn lengths</u> on the Plate Layout Drawing. Keeping joints tight, tack together with duplex nails.<p>NOTE: The chalk line of the short walls may not be exactly 5½" from the outside of the sill box. Therefore, when measuring ALWAYS use these lines as your reference, not the outside of the sill box. Be sure to use lumber with good, clean, and square edges at each end of the wall plates.</p>6. Field cut the last pieces by measuring to the chalk line and adding 5½".<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Before measuring, be sure the first plate is in correct position and that all joints between plates are tight.b. When finished cutting, both ends of the wall must be cleanly cut, square, and flush7. Mark the inside edge of the bottom plates 5½" from the end. This mark <u>must</u> align with the chalk line of the short wall (will aid wall construction).8. Tack top and bottom plates together with duplex nails and set in location on the deck.9. Repeat the above for the opposite long wall.
Cut Short Wall Plates	<ol style="list-style-type: none">10. As with long walls, consult Plate Layout Drawing for full-length and pre-defined plate lengths<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Set end of first set of plates tight to long wall chalk lineb. Cut/place intermediate plates and tack with duplex nailsc. Measure to opposite chalk line and field cut remaining pieces to fit11. Repeat with opposite short wall
Complete Plate Layout	<ol style="list-style-type: none">12. Recheck the lengths of both sets of opposite walls to be sure they are equal and ends match their chalk lines. If lengths differ by <u>more than 1/8"</u><ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Trim the <u>long set</u> of plates orb. At the <u>zero</u> end of the <u>short set</u> of plates, move the end stud past the end of the plates—e.g., at 1 3/8" rather than usual 1½". Label mark DO NOT MOVE.

Quality Points

Chapter 3 - Cutting Exterior Wall Plates

- At least four, straight 18-20 ft. 2x6's are set aside, labeled for gable use only and shrink wrapped
- End cut square
- Bottom and upper plates lengths are equal (ends are flush)
- Lumber with good, clean, and square edges used at each end of the wall plates
- Did NOT use extremely crowned, bowed or twisted lumber
- Opposite walls plate sets are equal in length
- Mark both ends of long wall bottom plates 5 1/2" from end of plates (marks must align with short wall chalk lines)