

**Chapter 3 – Marking Studs-Exterior Wall Plates**

<p>Lay Out Studs on LONG WALLS</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Lay out long walls first. Before starting, check opposite walls to be sure they are precisely the same lengths (within 1/8"). If not, trim to equalize. NOTE: This is very important with 24" o.c. framing because it ensures the studs are located directly under roof trusses.</li> <li>2. Hook a tape on the <u>zero</u> end of the plates and mark the location of all studs on 24" centers             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Mark both edges of studs at +/- 3/4" from center and place an "X" within edge marks on all four plates where no window or door. (If using the 50-foot <u>steel</u> tape, do not hook the tape but burn 24" and mark after that.)</li> <li>b. If 24" center falls at King stud, leave the "K" designation on that set of plates. If the "K" location is <u>not on center</u> it may have to be moved. See Construction Supervisor or Site Leader.</li> <li>c. If 24" center falls within a <u>window</u>, mark a "SX" ("Short Stud") on bottom plate. (DO NOT mark an "SX" within a door)</li> </ol> </li> <li>3. If length of walls not a multiple of 24", may be necessary to add extra stud at 48"             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. If wall long by 3/4" or less, ignore the difference</li> <li>b. If &gt;3/4", measure back from end and center stud at 48"                 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. If it overlaps stud on 24" centers, locate extra stud tight to the one on 24" centers</li> <li>ii. Otherwise, center stud at 48" from the end</li> </ol> </li> <li>c. If house plan does not show OSB sheathing at wall end or if door or window prevents installation of a full 48" wide sheet, see Construction Supervisor.</li> </ol> </li> <li>4. At each end of long walls, layout a corner with two 2x6 studs, making an L-corner             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Make one mark at 1 1/2" from end, mark with "X" (like a normal stud)</li> <li>b. Make second mark 5 1/2" from the <u>first mark</u> (the width of a 2x6)</li> <li>c. Mark this "L" as "Corner Down"</li> </ol> </li> </ol> <div> <p>The diagram illustrates an exterior L-corner construction. It shows two perpendicular wall plates meeting at a corner. The top plate is labeled 'OSB SHEATHING'. A dimension line indicates a '1" MIN' gap between the end of the top plate and the start of the vertical plate. The vertical plate is labeled 'EXTERIOR "L" CORNER'. The diagram shows the corner being built with two 2x6 studs.</p> </div>
<p>Lay Out Studs on SHORT WALLS</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5. Extend tape 5 1/2" past <u>zero end</u> and mark studs on 24" centers. Mark "X's" and "SX's" as usual.</li> <li>6. At the <u>non-zero</u> end, again extend tape 5 1/2" past the end and measure back 48". If no stud at that location, proceed as follows:             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. If any stud is <u>centered</u> between 48" and 52 1/2" <u>from the outside corner</u>, the edge of OSB can be centered on that stud during wall building.</li> <li>b. If no stud is centered within that range, add a stud at 48" from the end.</li> </ol> </li> </ol>
<p>Finish Marking Plates</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7. Mark the inside edge of the upper plate with "UPPER" and the inside edge of the bottom plate with BOTTOM. Mark the upper plate with a compass orientation (N,S,E,W) as it lays on the deck.</li> <li>8. Lay plates flat on deck with inside edges facing in with ends at prescribed locations</li> <li>9. Mark <u>inside edge of long wall bottom plates</u> 5 1/2" from end to aid wall building</li> <li>10. Check drawing or deck for intersecting 2x4 or 2x6 walls. At these locations, mark top edges with lines 3 1/2" or 5 1/2" apart and mark a "W" between the lines. Helps during wall building.</li> </ol>

## Quality Points

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- All studs marked on 24" on centers from the zero end
- Additional stud marked (usually needed) on non-zero end of long walls
- Additional stud marked (usually NOT needed) on non-zero end of short walls
- All "SX" studs under window sills are marked
- Both ends of long walls must have "L-corners" marked
- Verify both ends of long wall bottom plates 5 1/2" from end of plates (marks must align with short wall chalk lines)