

Quick Reference Guide

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Chapter 1 - Installing Laminate Beam

Beam Preparation	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Refer to House Plan and mark beam location on concrete foundation wall2. Remove any protective cover on beam and check for “UP” designation3. Determine required length of beam<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Measure from back edge of beam pockets – TWICE!b. Subtract 1” from measured lengthc. Mark beam at that length and score both faces of beam ½” deep with circular saw
Move Beam to Pockets	<ol style="list-style-type: none">4. Attach a temporary 2x4 (long enough to extend at least 6” past outside edge of foundation) to middle of beam with 16d duplex nails5. Carefully move beam to the pockets<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Assign person to hold end of 2x4 and stabilize beam during beam setb. Position beam along a non-pocket wall so both ends of the beam rest on the pocket wall foundations (or sill plates, if present)c. Carefully jockey the ends of the beam to slide the beam toward the pocketsd. Slowly position the scored end over its pockete. Carefully move beam until unscored end drops into its pocket6. Cut beam to length<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Elevate scored end of beam 6-12” with pieces of scrap 2x4 on the foundationb. Trim beam with reciprocating saw using score marks as guidec. Carefully remove pieces of 2x4 scrap, one piece at a time, to lower beam into pocket
Complete Beam Installation	<ol style="list-style-type: none">7. Position beam with ½” gap between end of beam and back of pocket8. Align beam with marks on concrete wall9. Stabilize beam by nailing the long 2x4 from Step 4 to sill plate (or drill hole and attach to foundation bolt)10. Flush beam with top of sill plates at center mark on both short walls using steel shims11. Cut scrap treated lumber, wedge between beam and concrete side of pocket. Secure permanently12. Refer to House Plan and attach support posts to underside of beam with 1½” lag screws and washers<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Position plate to be flush with <u>finished side</u> of basementb. Set bottom of posts on concrete pad and roughly plumb.<ol style="list-style-type: none">i. Do not anchor at this timeii. REQUIREMENT: Threaded adjustment screw/plate must be on the concrete pad
Straighten and Secure Beam	<ol style="list-style-type: none">13. Attach Beam String Jigs, one near each end of the beam14. Tightly stretch a string line between both jigs and secure15. If beam is bowed, nail additional 2x4 braces—between joist locations, 2” from outside edge of sill plate16. Using gauge block between string and beam, adjust braces until beam is straight17. Plumb posts, check for straight/level, anchor to concrete w/1¾” concrete screws and ¼”x1” fender washers —four per post18. Cut and install (with wording right-side up) I-joists at each end of the long walls and over each of the posts19. Check I-joists for crown; adjust beam as needed until each I-joist is straight along its top edge20. Remove adjustment pins from support posts21. Leave string from Step 14 in place to confirm beam location during I-joist installation
Install Egress Safety Covers	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Install egress well metal cover and temporary wood safety cover

Quality Points

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- Verify beam is in correct location (according to House Plan) and correct orientation (top edge is up)
- At each end of the beam, the top of the beam is flush with the top of sill plates at their center mark
- Beam is perpendicular to top of foundation (use a framing square) and tightly, permanently wedged in place
- All required support posts:
 - are installed threaded side down, in proper location (according to House Plan) and flush to finished side of beam
 - Are secured to underside of beam with 1½” lag screws and washers
 - Are secured to support pad with four ¼”x1¾” concrete screws and ¼”x1” fender washers
 - Are plumbed in two directions and all posts are in alignment (site at BOTTOM of posts or use a string)
- Beam is straightened side to side (no bow) using string and secured at each post
- Each supporting I-joist is nailed (3¼” collated nails) to sill plates at both ends and to beam, one nail on each side of I-joist at each location. Wording on the face of the I-joists is right-side up. Double check for if straightness (no bow) by sighting along BOTTOM flange of I-joist
- Beam is level using string and checking any supporting I-joists installed by sighting the TOP flange for any crown. If crown up, lower beam posts or beam shims until level, if crown down then raise beam posts or beam shims until level
- Metal and temporary wood egress safety covers are installed.