NORDIC

INSTALLATION GUIDE
NORDIC JOIST

NS-GI33

VERSION
2022-01-01

Engineered Wood Products

BASIC INSTALLATION GUIDE FOR RESIDENTIAL FLOORS

NORDIC JOIST

NORDIC STRUCTURES

nordic.ca

INSTALLING NORDIC I-JOISTS

1. Installation of Nordic I-joists shall be as shown in details 1.
2. Except for cutting to length, I-joist flanges should never be cut, drilled or notched.
3. Install I-joists so that top and bottom flanges are within 1/2 inch of true vertical alignment.
4. Concentrated loads should only be applied to the top surface of the top flange. Concentrated loads should not be suspended from the bottom flange with the exception of light loads, such as ceiling fans or light fixtures.
5. I-joists must be protected from the weather prior to installation.
6. I-joists must not be used in applications where they will be permanently exposed to weather, or will reach a moisture content of 16 percent or greater, such as in swimming pool or hot tub areas. They must not be installed where they will remain in direct contact with concrete or masonry.
7. End bearing length must be at least 1-3/4 inch. For multiple-span joists, intermediate bearing length must be at least 3-1/2 inches.
8. Ends of floor joists shall be restrained to prevent rollover. Use rim board or I-joist blocking panels.
9. I-joists installed beneath bearing walls perpendicular to the joists shall have full-depth blocking panels, rim board, or squash blocks (cripple blocks) to transfer gravity loads from above the floor system to the wall or foundation below.
10. For I-joists installed directly beneath bearing walls parallel to the joists or used as rim board or blocking panels, the maximum allowable vertical load using a single I-joist is 2,000 plf, and 4,000 plf if double I-joists are used.
11. Continuous lateral support of the I-joist's compression flange is required to prevent rotation and buckling. In simple span uses, lateral support of the top flange is normally supplied by the floor sheathing. In multiple-span or cantilever applications, bracing of the I-joist's bottom flange is also required at interior supports of multiple-span joists, and at the end support next to the cantilever extension. The ends of all cantilever extensions must be laterally braced as shown in details 3, 4, or 5.
12. Nails installed in flange face or edge shall be spaced in accordance with the applicable building code requirements or approved building plans, but should not be closer than those specified on page 3.3 of the Nordic Joist Technical Guide (NS-GT3).
13. Details 1 show only I-joist-specific fastener requirements. For other fastener requirements, see the applicable building code.
14. For proper temporary bracing of wood I-joists and placement of temporary construction loads, see APA Technical Note: Temporary Construction Loads over I-Joist Roofs and Floors, Form J735.

All nails shown in the details are assumed to be common nails unless otherwise noted. 10d box nails (0.128 x 3 inches) may be substituted for 8d common nails (0.131 x 2-1/2 inches) shown in details. Individual components not shown to scale for clarity.

SAFETY AND CONSTRUCTION PRECAUTIONS

I-joists are not stable until completely installed, and will not carry any load until fully braced and sheathed.

Avoid Accidents by Following these Important Guidelines:

1. Brace and nail each I-joist as it is installed, using hangers, blocking panels, rim board, and/or cross-bridging at joist ends. When I-joists are applied continuous over interior supports and a load-bearing wall is planned at that location, blocking will be required at the interior support.
2. When the building is completed, the floor sheathing will provide lateral support for the top flanges of the I-joists. Until this sheathing is applied, temporary bracing, often called struts, or temporary sheathing must be applied to prevent I-joist rollover or buckling.
   - Temporary bracing or struts must be 1x4 inch minimum, at least 8 feet long and spaced no more than 8 feet on center, and must be secured with a minimum of two 8d nails fastened to the top surface of each I-joist. Nail the bracing to a lateral restraint at the end of each bay. Lap ends of adjoining bracing over at least two I-joists.
   - Or, sheathing (temporary or permanent) can be nailed to the top flange of the first 4 feet of I-joists at the end of the bay.
3. For cantilevered I-joists, brace top and bottom flanges, and brace ends with closure panels, rim board, or cross-bridging.
4. Install and fully nail permanent sheathing to each I-joist before placing loads on the floor system. Then, stack building materials over beams or walls only.
5. *Never* install a damaged I-joist.

Improper storage or installation, failure to follow applicable building codes, failure to follow span ratings for Nordic I-joists, failure to follow allowable hole sizes and locations, or failure to use web stiffeners when required can result in serious accidents. Follow these installation guidelines carefully.

Do not walk on I-joists until fully fastened and braced, or serious injuries can result.

Never stack building materials over unsheathed I-joists. Once sheathed, do not overstress I-joist with concentrated loads from building materials.

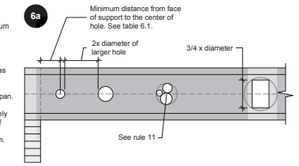
WEB HOLES AND OPENINGS

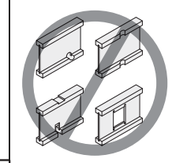
WEB HOLES IN I-JOISTS

Rules for Cutting Holes in I-Joists

1. The distance between the inside edge of the support and the centerline of any hole shall be in compliance with the requirements of table 6.1.
2. I-joist top and bottom flanges must never be cut, notched or otherwise modified.
3. Whenever possible, field-cut holes should be centered on the middle of the web..
4. The maximum size hole that can be cut into an I-joist web shall equal the clear distance between the flanges of the I-joist minus 1/4 inch. A minimum of 1/8 inch should always be maintained between the top or bottom of the hole and the adjacent I-joist flange.
5. The sides of square holes or longest sides of rectangular holes should not exceed 3/4 of the diameter of the maximum round hole permitted at that location.
6. Where more than one hole is necessary, the distance between adjacent hole edges shall exceed twice the diameter of the largest round hole or twice the size of the largest square hole - or twice the length of the longest side of the longest rectangular hole -, and each hole must be sized and located in compliance with the requirements of table 6.1.
7. Holes measuring 1-1/2 inch or smaller shall be permitted anywhere in a cantilevered section of a joist. Holes of greater size may be permitted subject to verification.
8. A 1-1/2 inch hole or smaller can be placed anywhere in the web provided that it meets the requirements of rule number 6 above. For more than three holes per span, space holes at minimum 15 inches on centre or contact Nordic Structures.
9. All holes shall be cut in accordance with the restrictions listed above and as illustrated in detail 6a.
10. Limit three maximum-size holes per span.
11. A group of round holes at approximately the same location shall be permitted if it meets the requirements for a single round hole circumscribed around them.

6a





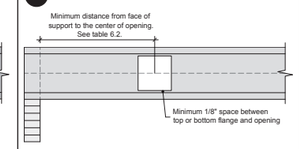
Notes:
1. Never drill, cut or notch the flange, or over-cut the web.
2. Holes in web should be cut with a sharp saw.
3. For rectangular holes, avoid over-cutting the corners, as this can cause unnecessary stress concentrations. Slightly rounding the corners is recommended. Starting the rectangular hole by drilling a 1-inch-diameter hole in each of the four corners and then making the cuts between the holes is another good method to minimize damage to the I-joist.

DUCT CHASE OPENINGS

Rules for Cutting Duct Chase Openings in I-joists

1. The distance between the inside edge of the support and the centerline of a duct chase opening shall be in compliance with the requirements of table 6.2.
2. I-joist top and bottom flanges must never be cut, notched or otherwise modified.
3. The maximum depth of a duct chase opening that can be cut into an I-joist web shall equal the clear distance between the flanges of the I-joist minus 1/4 inch. A minimum of 1/8 inch should always be maintained between the top or bottom of the opening and the adjacent I-joist flange.
4. All openings shall be cut in accordance with the restrictions listed above and as illustrated in detail 6b.
5. Limit one maximum-size duct chase opening per span.

6b



Notes:
1. Never drill, cut or notch the flange, or over-cut the web.
2. Holes in web should be cut with a sharp saw.
3. Avoid over-cutting the corners, as this can cause unnecessary stress concentrations. Slightly rounding the corners is recommended. Starting the rectangular hole by drilling a 1-inch-diameter hole in each of the four corners and then making the cuts between the holes is another good method to minimize damage to the I-joist.

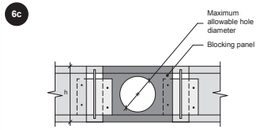
I-joist depth (in.)	Maximum depth of the opening (in.)
9-1/2	6-1/4
11-7/8	8-5/8
14	10-3/4
16	12-3/4

HOLES IN BLOCKING PANELS

Maximum Allowable Hole Size in Lateral-restraint-only Blocking Panels

1. The maximum allowable hole size for a lateral-restraint-only blocking panel is 2/3 of the lesser dimension of the blocking's depth or length. Assuming the blocking panel is longer than its height (or depth), the table aside applies. For other applications, contact Nordic Structures.
2. Holes cut into the blocking panels are subject to the following limitations:
   - The top and bottom flanges of an I-joist blocking panel must never be cut, notched or otherwise modified.
   - Field-cut holes must be centered in the blocking horizontally.
   - While round holes are preferred, rectangle holes may be used provided the corners are not over cut. Slightly rounding corners or pre-drilling corners with a 1-inch-diameter bit is recommended.
   - All holes must be cut in a workman-like manner in accordance with the limitations listed above.

6c



I-joist or rim board blocking depth (in.)	Maximum allowable hole diameter (in.)[a]
9-1/2	6-1/4
11-7/8	7-3/4
14	9-1/4
16	10-1/2

[a] Maximum allowable hole diameter in blocking panel, where the blocking panel is longer than its height.

NORDIC I-JOIST SERIES — RESIDENTIAL SERIES

NI-40x
2x3 1950f MSR 3/8 in. web
Depths
9-1/2, 11-7/8 and 14 in.
33 pieces per unit

NI-60
2x3 2100f MSR 3/8 in. web
Depths
9-1/2, 11-7/8, 14 and 16 in.
33 pieces per unit

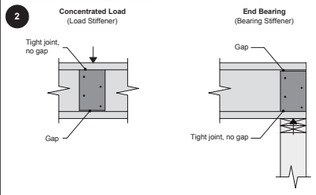
NI-80
2x4 2100f MSR 3/8 in. web
Depths
9-1/2, 11-7/8, 14 and 16 in.
23 pieces per unit

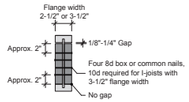
NI-90
2x4 2400f MSR 7/16 in. web
Depths
11-7/8, 14 and 16 in.
23 pieces per unit

RIM BOARDS
Width 1-1/8 in. **Length** 16 ft
Depths
9-1/2 to 16 in.
APA Rim Board Plus

WEB STIFFENERS

2

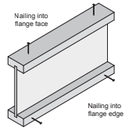




Stiffener Size Requirements

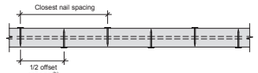
Flange width (in.)	Web stiffener size each side of web (in.)
2-1/2	1 x 2-5/16 Minimum width
3-1/2	1-1/2 x 2-5/16 Minimum width

NAIL SPACING



Nailed to Only One Flange Edge (Top View)

Nailed to Both Flange Edges (Top View)

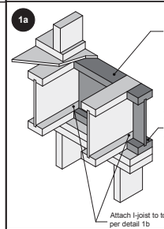


Recommended Closest Nail Spacing for Fastening Sheathing to I-joist Flanges to Minimize Splitting

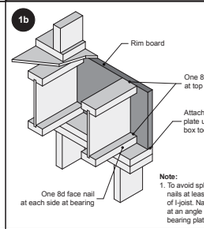
Fastener size (diameter x length)	Flange face nailing [a]		Flange edge nailing [a]		
			Nail spacing (in.)		
	End distance (in.)	Nail spacing (in.)	End distance (in.)	Nailed to only one flange edge	Nailed to both flange edges
0.128" or smaller in diameter, and 3-1/4" or shorter in length (8d box or sinker, 10d box or sinker, or 12d box)	2	2	2	2	4
Greater than 0.128" up to 0.148" in diameter, and 3-1/4" or shorter in length (8d common, 10d common, 12d sinker or common, or 16d sinker)	2	3	2	3	6

[a] If more than one row is required, offset rows a minimum of 1/2 inch and stagger.
[b] Closest nail spacing measured from one flange edge. Nails on opposite flange edge must be offset one-half the minimum spacing.

1a

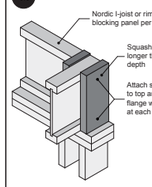


1b

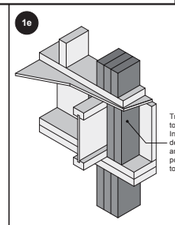


Note:
1. To avoid splitting flange, start nails at least 1-1/2 inch from end of I-joist. Nails may be driven at an angle to avoid splitting of bearing plate.

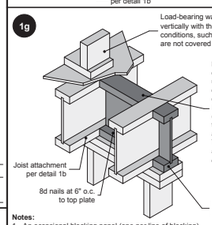
1d



1e

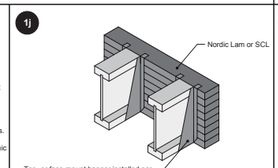


1g



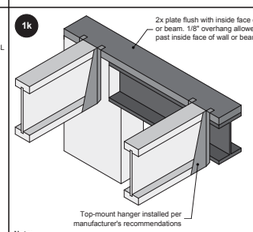
Notes:
1. An occasional blocking panel (one per line of blocking) may be left out for the passage of plumbing or ventilation ducts. For other applications, contact Nordic Structures.
2. For other options, see details 1g-1 to 1g-4.

1j



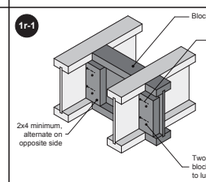
Notes:
1. Unless hanger sides laterally support the top flange, bearing stiffeners shall be used.
2. For nailing schedules for multiple Nordic Lam or SCL beams, see the manufacturer's recommendations.

1k



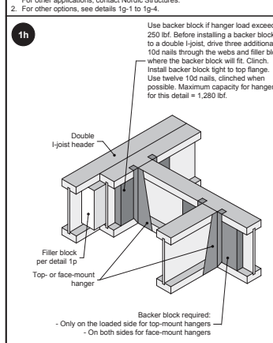
Note:
1. Unless hanger sides laterally support the top flange, bearing stiffeners shall be used.

1r-1



Notes:
1. This detail may be used to reduce floor vibration.
2. Blocking panels may be of any I-joist series. Box nails attaching lumber piece to I-joist web should be driven from the web side and clinched on the lumber side.
3. One occasional blocking panel may be left out for the passage of ventilation ducts. Otherwise, a hole of not more than 2/3 of the lesser dimension of the blocking depth or length may be drilled in the blocking panel.

1h

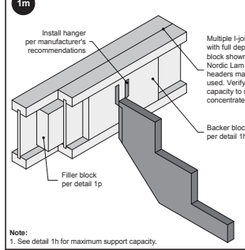


Flange width (in.)	Material thickness required (in.)[a]	Minimum depth (in.)[b]
2-1/2	1	5-1/2
3-1/2	1-1/2	7-1/4

[a] Minimum grade for backer block material shall be Utility grade S-P-F (south) or better for solid sawn lumber and Rated Sheathing grade for wood structural panels.
[b] For face-mount hangers use net joist depth minus 3-1/4 inches for joists with 1-1/2-inch-thick flanges.

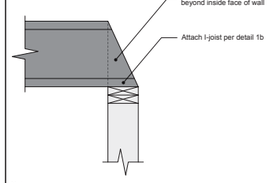
Notes:
1. Unless hanger sides laterally support the top flange, bearing stiffeners shall be used.
2. For hanger capacity, see manufacturer's recommendations.
3. Verify double I-joist capacity to support concentrated loads.
4. Backer blocks must be long enough to permit required nailing without splitting.
5. For other options, see detail 1h-1.

1m



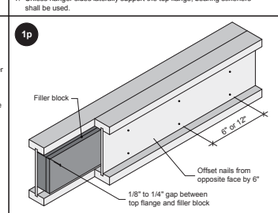
Note:
1. See detail 1h for maximum support capacity.

1n



Note:
1. Blocking required at bearing for lateral support, not shown for clarity.

1p



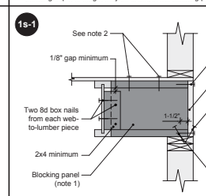
Notes:
1. Support back of I-joist web during nailing to prevent damage to web/flange connection.
2. Leave a 1/8-inch to 1/4-inch gap between top of filler block and bottom of top I-joist flange.
3. Filler block is required between joists for full length of span.
4. For flange width of 2-1/2 inches, nail joists together with two rows of 10d nails at 12 inches o.c. (clinched when possible) on each side of the double I-joist (total of four nails per foot). For flange width of 3-1/2 inches, use two rows of 10d nails at 6 inches o.c. on each side of the double I-joist (total of eight nails per foot).
5. The maximum load that may be applied to one side of the double I-joist using this detail is 620 lbfft.

Filler Block Requirements for Double I-joist Construction

Flange width (in.)	Net depth (in.)	Filler block size (in.)	Example
2-1/2	9-1/2	2-1/8 to 2-1/4 x 6	2x6 + 5/8" or 3/4" sheathing
	11-7/8	2-1/8 to 2-1/4 x 8	2x8 + 5/8" or 3/4" sheathing
	14	2-1/8 to 2-1/4 x 10	2x10 + 5/8" or 3/4" sheathing
	16	2-1/8 to 2-1/4 x 12	2x12 + 5/8" or 3/4" sheathing
3-1/2	9-1/2	3 x 6	2 x 2x6
	11-7/8	3 x 8	2 x 2x8
	14	3 x 10	2 x 2x10
	16	3 x 12	2 x 2x12

Note:
1. The height of the filler block may be different from that specified in the table, as long as it allows nailing and respects the required gap.

1s-1



Notes:
1. In some local codes, blocking panels are prescriptively required in the first joist space (or first and second joist spaces) next to the starter joist. Where required, see local code requirements for spacing of the blocking panels. As a minimum, it is recommended to use blocking panels spaced at 4 feet on center.
2. Details shown are for minimum blocking attachment. Transfer of lateral loads may require additional fasteners. In such cases, nail size, spacing and specific design detailing shall be provided by the building designer.
3. Common nails of the same pennyweight may be substituted for the box nails shown above.
4. Where blocking panels are required between adjacent joists, the blocking panels may be staggered by approximatively 3 inches, and end-nailed as shown.
5. Box nails attaching lumber piece to I-joist web should be driven from the web side and clinched on the lumber side.

This document supersedes all previous versions. For the latest version, consult nordic.ca or contact Nordic Structures.

FOR ALL construction details →DC3

TABLE 6.1 – LOCATION OF WEB HOLES

Simple or multiple span

Minimum distance from inside face of any support to center of hole (ft-in.)

Joist depth	Joist series	Round hole diameter (in.)														
		2	3	4	5	6	6-1/4	7	8	8-5/8	9	10	10-3/4	11	12	12-3/4
9-1/2"	NI-40x	0'-7"	1'-4"	2'-8"	4'-2"	5'-8"	6'-2"	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	NI-60	1'-0"	2'-4"	3'-9"	5'-3"	6'-10"	7'-3"	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	NI-80	2'-0"	3'-5"	4'-10"	6'-4"	8'-0"	8'-5"	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
11-7/8"	NI-40x	0'-7"	0'-8"	1'-0"	2'-4"	3'-8"	4'-0"	5'-2"	6'-8"	8'-0"	-	-	-	-	-	-
	NI-60	0'-7"	1'-4"	2'-8"	4'-0"	5'-5"	5'-10"	7'-0"	8'-8"	9'-9"	-	-	-	-	-	-
	NI-80	1'-4"	2'-8"	4'-0"	5'-4"	6'-10"	7'-3"	8'-5"	10'-2"	11'-3"	-	-	-	-	-	-
	NI-90	0'-7"	0'-8"	1'-3"	2'-11"	4'-8"	5'-2"	6'-6"	8'-6"	9'-11"	-	-	-	-	-	-
14"	NI-40x	0'-7"	0'-8"	0'-8"	0'-9"	2'-2"	2'-4"	3'-4"	4'-9"	5'-9"	6'-3"	8'-0"	9'-9"	-	-	-
	NI-60	0'-7"	0'-8"	1'-3"	2'-6"	4'-0"	4'-3"	5'-3"	6'-9"	7'-9"	8'-3"	10'-2"	11'-10"	-	-	-
	NI-80	0'-8"	1'-10"	3'-2"	4'-6"	6'-0"	6'-3"	7'-4"	8'-10"	9'-10"	10'-6"	12'-3"	13'-8"	-	-	-
	NI-90	0'-7"	0'-8"	0'-9"	2'-3"	3'-10"	4'-3"	5'-6"	7'-3"	8'-5"	9'-2"	11'-2"	12'-9"	-	-	-
16"	NI-60	0'-7"	0'-8"	0'-8"	1'-2"	2'-5"	2'-9"	3'-9"	5'-0"	6'-0"	6'-6"	8'-0"	9'-2"	9'-8"	11'-9"	13'-9"
	NI-80	0'-7"	1'-2"	2'-4"	3'-8"	5'-0"	5'-4"	6'-4"	7'-10"	8'-9"	9'-4"	11'-0"	12'-2"	12'-6"	14'-4"	16'-0"
	NI-90	0'-7"	0'-8"	0'-8"	1'-6"	3'-0"	3'-5"	4'-6"	6'-3"	7'-3"	7'-10"	9'-8"	11'-0"	11'-6"	13'-6"	15'-3"

Notes:
1. Tabulated values are applicable to residential floor construction meeting the adjacent design criteria.
2. The above table is based on the I-joists being used at their maximum spans. The minimum distance as given above may be reduced for shorter spans; contact your local distributor.

Design Criteria

Joist spacing	Up to 24 inches
Loads	Live load = 40 psf and dead load = 10 psf
Deflection limits	L/480 under live load and L/240 under total load

TABLE 6.2 – LOCATION OF DUCT CHASE OPENINGS

Simple span

Minimum distance from inside face of any support to center of opening (ft-in.)

Joist depth	Joist series	Duct chase length (in.)								
		8	10	12	14	16	18	20	22	24
9-1/2"	NI-40x	5'-2"	5'-7"	6'-0"	6'-4"	6'-8"	7'-2"	7'-7"	-	-
	NI-60	5'-3"	5'-8"	6'-0"	6'-6"	7'-0"	7'-3"	7'-9"	-	-
	NI-80	5'-2"	5'-7"	6'-0"	6'-4"	6'-8"	7'-2"	7'-7"	8'-1"	8'-6"
11-7/8"	NI-40x	6'-7"	7'-1"	7'-6"	8'-1"	8'-6"	9'-1"	9'-7"	-	-
	NI-60	7'-1"	7'-7"	8'-0"	8'-4"	8'-10"	9'-3"	9'-9"	-	-
	NI-80	7'-1"	7'-5"	8'-0"	8'-4"	8'-10"	9'-2"	9'-8"	10'-2"	10'-8"
	NI-90	4'-3"	4'-10"	5'-4"	5'-11"	6'-6"	7'-1"	7'-8"	8'-3"	8'-11"
14"	NI-40x	7'-9"	8'-3"	8'-10"	9'-5"	10'-1"	10'-7"	11'-3"	-	-
	NI-60	8'-8"	9'-2"	9'-6"	10'-1"	10'-6"	11'-1"	11'-7"	-	-
	NI-80	8'-9"	9'-2"	9'-8"	10'-1"	10'-6"	11'-1"	11'-6"	12'-1"	12'-6"
	NI-90	5'-10"	6'-5"	7'-0"	7'-6"	8'-2"	8'-9"	9'-4"	9'-11"	10'-8"
16"	NI-60	10'-1"	10'-7"	11'-0"	11'-6"	12'-1"	12'-7"	13'-4"	-	-
	NI-80	10'-3"	10'-9"	11'-2"	11'-7"	12'-1"	12'-7"	13'-2"	13'-9"	14'-6"
	NI-90	7'-4"	7'-11"	8'-6"	9'-1"	9'-8"	10'-3"	13'-0"	11'-7"	12'-3"

Design Criteria

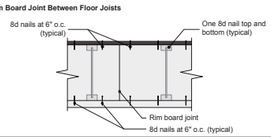
Joist spacing	Up to 24 inches
Loads	Live load = 40 psf and dead load = 10 psf
Deflection limits	L/480 under live load and L/240 under total load

Note:
1. Tabulated values are applicable to residential floor construction meeting the above design criteria.

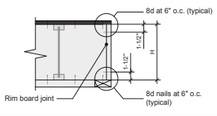
RIM BOARDS

8a

Rim Board Joint Between Floor Joists

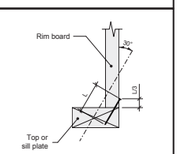


Rim Board Joint at Corner



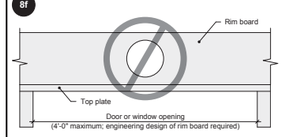
Notes:
1. Floor sheathing to rim board - Use 8d nails (box or common) at 6 inches o.c. *Caution: The horizontal load capacity is not necessarily increased with a decreased nail spacing. Under no circumstances should the nail spacing be less than 3 inches. The 16d nails (box or common) used to connect the bottom plate of a wall to the rim board through the sheathing do not reduce the horizontal load capacity of the rim board provided that the 8d nail spacing (sheathing-rim board) is 6 inches o.c. and the 16d nail spacing (bottom plate-sheathing-rim board) is in accordance with the prescriptive requirements of the applicable code. APA recommends a minimum 3/8-inch panel edge distance be maintained when nailing. Calculations show that the tongue does not need to be removed for floor sheathing 7/8-inch thick or less when used in conjunction with rim boards of 1-1/8 inch. Some local code jurisdictions, however, may require removal of the tongue at the edge of floor framing when nailing it to rim board.*
2. Rim board to I-joist - Use two 8d nails (box or common), one each into the top and bottom flanges.

8b



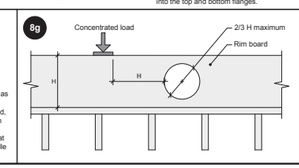
Note:
1. Rim board to sill plate - Toe-nail using 8d nails (box or common) at 6 inches o.c.

8f

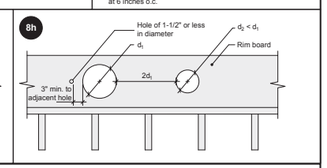
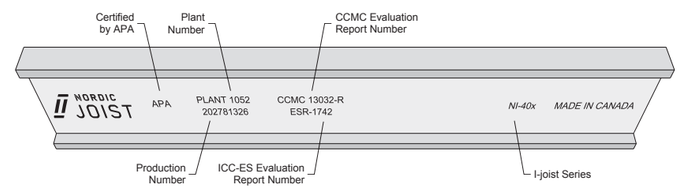


Note:
1. Do not cut holes in rim board installed over openings, such as doors or windows, where the rim board is not fully supported, except that holes of 1-1/2 inch or less in size are permitted provided they are positioned at the mid-depth and in the middle one-third of the span.

8g



8h



I-JOIST MARKING