



Plumbing Walls

Building and Neighborhood Services

109 3rd Avenue South

Franklin, TN 37064

615-794-7012 OFFICE 615-591-9066 FAX

We have been encountering numerous situations where pipes or other components are being placed in 2 X 4 walls, which require notching or boring larger than is allowed by Code. Codes specify limitations on notching and boring of wood frame members. The situations we are encountering are in violation of Codes and require correction. These limitations have been consistent in codes for decades.

We will enforce the requirements of the Codes for notching and boring of any wood frame members. This will mean that a 2 X 4 wall will not be acceptable for many pipes and components placed within a wall.

After July 1, 2001, we will **require a 2 X 6 or greater** wall where components are installed in the wall, which will cause over-boring or notching. This is specific code requirement.

The maximum hole that can be bored in a 2 X 4 stud is 60%. Studs that are drilled up to 60% are to be doubled and no more than two consecutive studs can be bored. The maximum single stud boring in a **bearing** wall is 40%. A maximum 5/8 inch of wood is required to be left intact between any hole and the edge of the stud. Sixty percent (60%) of a 2 X 4 stud is 2 1/8 inch. Forty percent (40%) of a 2 X 4 stud is 1 7/16 inch. Maximum percentage of boring and notching applies to all wood frame members. Requirements for horizontal framing members vary from those for vertical framing (studs).

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