

Chapter 5 – Straightening Exterior Walls

<p>Mount 2x4 String Line Supports</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> To straighten exterior walls, a <u>very taut</u> string line is stretched from one inside corner to an adjacent inside corner. The wall is aligned with the string line every 8' - 10' and braced to hold it in place. For each exterior wall corner, cut a scrap of 2x4 10" - 12" long. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> In the approximate center of the 2x4, drive a 16d nail straight through, leaving about ½" above the 2x4 (this is left to wrap the string around) and about 1" sticking out the bottom. Be sure the nail is straight since the nail above the 2x4 represents the inside of the corner. At the exterior wall "inside" corner, place the 2x4 on top of the 2x6 top plates at roughly a 45° angle so that the point end of the 16d nail rests <u>tight</u> against both walls' "inside" top plates (nail resting tightly against the inside of the corner). <div data-bbox="626 667 1032 884" data-label="Image"> </div> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Nail the 2x4 to the upper plate with two 16d nails on each end of the 2x4. Nail securely since there will be a lot of string tension on these. Repeat at all corners.
<p>Attach Mason String Line</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> At the first corner, start the string line on any nail <u>other than the centered nail</u>. (Feel free to add additional "tie-off" nails as needed.) Wrap the sting on the <u>exterior</u> of the centered nail, aligning with the inside edge of the upper plates on each wall. Pulling the line <u>very</u> taut, go to the next corner, wrap the line on the <u>exterior</u> side of the center nail and tie off on one of the anchor nails. Repeat steps 7 & 8 at the other corners until back to the starting corner. Wrap the line on the exterior side of the center nail and tie off on one of the anchor nails. <p>NOTE: At each corner, verify that the string line is aligned with the "inside" of the upper plates. Adjust the nails as needed.</p>
<p>Straighten the Walls</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Start 5' - 7' from the corner. Place one end of a 6' level against the upper plate and the other end against a nearby stud – not the stud immediately below. (This 2-pt contact avoids problems with a bowed or twisted stud.) Slide the level up the wall until it reaches the string. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> If the top of the level touches the string, use the turnbuckle pipe bracing to move the wall <u>in</u> until the inner edge of the level lines up with the string. If the level misses the string, move the wall <u>out</u> until the inside edge lines up with the string. The wall is now straight in that section. Move about 5' to 7' and repeat steps 11 & 12. Install additional pipe braces as required to get the wall straight. After all bracing is complete for all exterior walls, recheck alignment at the center of the wall using the string and a 6' level. If acceptable, remove the string and blocks.

Quality Points

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