

**Chapter 5 – Straightening Exterior Walls**

<p>Mount 2x4 String Line Supports</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>For each exterior wall corner, cut a scrap of 2x4 10" - 12" long.             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>Be sure the nail is straight since the nail above the 2x4 represents the inside of the corner.</li> </ol> </li> <li>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).</li> </ol> <div data-bbox="626 667 1032 884" data-label="Image"> </div> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>Repeat at all corners.</li> </ol>
<p>Attach Mason String Line</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.)</li> <li>Wrap the sting on the <u>exterior</u> of the centered nail, aligning with the inside edge of the upper plates on each wall.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>Repeat steps 7 &amp; 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.</li> </ol> <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"> <li>Start 5' - 7' from the corner.</li> <li>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.)</li> <li>Slide the level up the wall until it reaches the string.             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> </ol> </li> <li>Move about 5' to 7' and repeat steps 11 &amp; 12.</li> <li>Install additional pipe braces as required to get the wall straight.</li> <li>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.</li> </ol>

## Quality Points

### Chapter 5 – Straightening Exterior Walls