

## Quick Reference Guide

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### Chapter 3 - Laying Out Exterior Walls

Layout Exterior Corners with String	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Before laying out walls on the deck, check the perimeter of the deck and stair opening for excess decking or glue and trim as needed. At each corner measure in <math>5\frac{1}{2}</math>" from the outside surface of rim box. Measure in from both sides, mark an "X".</li><li>2. Drive two 8d nails into the outside of the rim board, roughly aligned with these initial corner marks.</li><li>3. Stretch a continuous, tight string between these nails for all exterior walls. The strings crossing at each corner create an easily adjustable corner.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Slide two <math>\frac{1}{4}</math>" spacers <u>tight to the rim board</u> under each string near each corner (between the corner mark and the rim board) to keep the string straight and off the surface when making adjustments.</li><li>• Align the two strings at each corner over the corner mark using two additional 8d nails to move and hold the line left and right. Drive these nails <u>close to the spacers</u> 2"-3" away from the corner mark to allow additional changes later with additional nails.</li></ul></li></ol>
Create a Rectangle	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>4. Measure the lengths (between string lines) of opposite walls and record on the Wall Layout Worksheet (copy in Manual).<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• If opposite wall lengths differ by <math>1/8</math>" <u>or MORE</u>, add <math>\frac{1}{2}</math> the difference at <u>each</u> end of the shorter wall</li><li>• If walls differ by <u>less than <math>1/8</math>"</u>, ignore the difference and proceed to Step 5.</li></ul><p>NOTE: If house includes a corner porch, see manual.</p></li></ol>
Square the Rectangle	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>5. With a long steel tape, <u>burn a foot</u> and measure the diagonals between the string line corner marks and record.</li><li>6. If they differ by <math>1/8</math>" <u>or more</u>, adjust the string lines using additional 8d nails as follows:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• At <u>each</u> end of the SHORT diagonal, lengthen the LONG wall by <math>\frac{1}{2}</math> the difference.</li><li>• Recheck for square and adjust as needed.</li></ul></li></ol>
Check for Rim Bow	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>7. Check all four sides of the rim bow: measure between the string line and the outside of the rim board every 4' to 5' and record on the Worksheet.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• If the maximum measurement is <u>greater than <math>5\frac{5}{8}</math>"</u>, move both ends of the mason line equally toward the rim board (use the 8d nails) until maximum = <math>5\frac{1}{2}</math>".</li><li>• If the difference is <u>equal to or less than <math>5\frac{5}{8}</math>"</u>, ignore the difference and proceed to Step 8.</li></ul></li></ol>
Complete Layout	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>8. Mark final corner marks on the deck at the intersecting corner string line locations by driving an 8d nail on the INSIDE corner of the crossing.</li><li>9. Measure between the nails to confirm opposite walls differ by <math>1/8</math>" or less.</li><li>10. Remove the string line and nails and snap red chalk lines on the OUTSIDE of the nails.</li><li>11. Spray all final chalk lines.</li></ol>

## Quality Points

### Chapter 3 - Laying Out Exterior Walls

- Main floor wall layouts are complete:
  - Perimeter of deck and stair opening has been trimmed of all excess decking and glue
  - Exterior and interior walls are marked on deck
  - Opposing walls are of equal length (within 1/8")
  - Rectangle is square (within 1/8")
  - Corner porch (if existing) properly laid out per manual
  
- All wall plates are cut and marked for studs, windows, and doors
  - Long wall bottom plates are marked 51/2" from ends to align with short wall chalk lines
  - All Studs (X), Kings (K), Jacks (J) marked, door and window areas labeled with size on top edges of wall plates
  - All Wall plates are securely nailed together with duplex nails
  - 2 exterior short walls are off the deck and set aside
  
- Component assemblies are complete and labeled:
  - Exterior components
  - Interior components
  
- Stairs are complete:
  - Temporary stair handrail is installed on lower half only
  - Temporary stair cover is installed and secured