Chapter 5 – Framing Exterior Walls

Preparation	 Assemble each wall on the deck, then erect in one complete section. Assemble long walls first, short walls after long walls are up. Remove the temporary nails connecting the plates and separate on deck with 8' between. Be sure the words "Upper" and "Bottom" remain in the same orientation. Align the 5½" marks on the bottom plate with the chalk lines of the adjoining short walls. Place all components in place between bottom and upper plates making sure the flush side of the header is up. If not presorted, check all studs for crown and place in position with crown up. Place components in position. Make certain that the flush side of the window and door headers faces up. NOTE: Use the straightest studs for the kitchen walls and bathroom tub wall.
Assemble Walls	 Preassemble 2x6 corners for long walls, ensure end and side surfaces are flush. a. Place the "L" down at the ends of the long wall, flush with the ends and sides of the upper and bottom plates. Nail top and bottom plates to the studs and components a. Mark the inside face of each plate at each layout mark. Use to ensure the studs are square to the plates when nailing. b. Flush the edges of the studs with ends of the plates, align with the marks, and nail with one 3¼" collated nail or 16d nail through the plate into the bottom third of the stud. c. Square the stud to the line and nail with two more 3¼" collated nails or 16d nails, taking care to keep hands or body parts away from the nailer. Use a tool to twist the stud to square if necessary. Field cut short-cut studs for under each window, measuring for length next to the nearest stud. a. Transfer locations for these pieces from the bottom plate to the window sill. b. Nail with three 3¼" collated nails or 16d nails at each end. Check the non-zero end of each wall for an extra stud near the second-last 24″ o.c. stud. a. If the two are in direct contact, screw them together with three 2½" deck screws. b. If the two studs are separated, fill the gap with multiples of ½" foamboard. Screw the studs together with three 4" timber screws to create a tight stud/foamboard "sandwich."

Quality Points

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- All studs (3 nails) and components nailed in place and tight to plates, flush on ends
- Bottom plate of long walls aligned at 5½" marks
- "L" corners in place and nailed
- Non-zero wall ends with extra studs are screwed together with deck screws and foam/stud "sandwiches" screwed with timber screws.