



# **TECHNICAL BULLETIN**

## **PERMIT AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT**

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### ***Drilling and Notching of Top Plates***

#### **INTRODUCTION**

This policy is intended to clarify when straps are needed at top plates for buildings of conventional light-frame construction, in conformance with the prescriptive requirements contained in the CBC, Chapter 23.

#### **TECHNICAL DETAILS**

When piping or duct work is placed in or partly in exterior wall or interior load bearing wall, necessitating cutting, drilling or notching of the top plate by more than 50 percent of it's width or when a bored hole is nearer than 5/8 inch (16mm) to the edge of the top plate, a galvanized metal tie of not less than 0.054 inches thick (1.37mm)(16ga) and 1-1/2 inches (38mm) wide shall be fastened to each plate across and to each side of the opening with not less than six 16d nails at each side or equivalent.

**Exception:** When the entire side of the wall with the notch, hole or cut is covered by wood structural panel sheathing.

#### **REFERENCES**

2001 California Building Code, Chapter 23, Section 2320.11.10  
2003 International Residential Code, Chapter 6, Section R602.6.1  
Sonoma County Residential Construction Handbook, Section 8