

Chapter 28: Installing Windows

Most Common Mistakes:

1. Locating windows narrower than 3' in the middle of a siding panel
2. Not using shims to level and plumb
3. Not caulking
4. Installing windows upside down
5. Not leveling properly
6. Failure to use self-adhesive flashing tape

Window Framing

Installing windows can be tricky! If a step is skipped or isn't done "right" big problems may occur. At a minimum, the warranty will be no good if window is installed other than to manufacturer's specifications. Even worse, rain water can leak behind windows and enter walls. If wet buildings can't dry properly, this wetness can lead to serious building damage. Moisture can also lead to wood rot which creates structural problems.

The following steps outline basic window installation steps, but consult any directions sent with window FIRST. It might also be handy to have a helper for handling window.



▶ Vinyl windows are best installed when vinyl temperature is above freezing. During cold weather installation, store windows overnight in a heated location prior to installing. ◀

Make Rough Opening

Consult window manufacturer's directions for rough opening dimensions. Frame opening following **See Figure 28-1 – Window with Flat Girts** or **See Figure 28-2 – Window with Commercial Girts**.

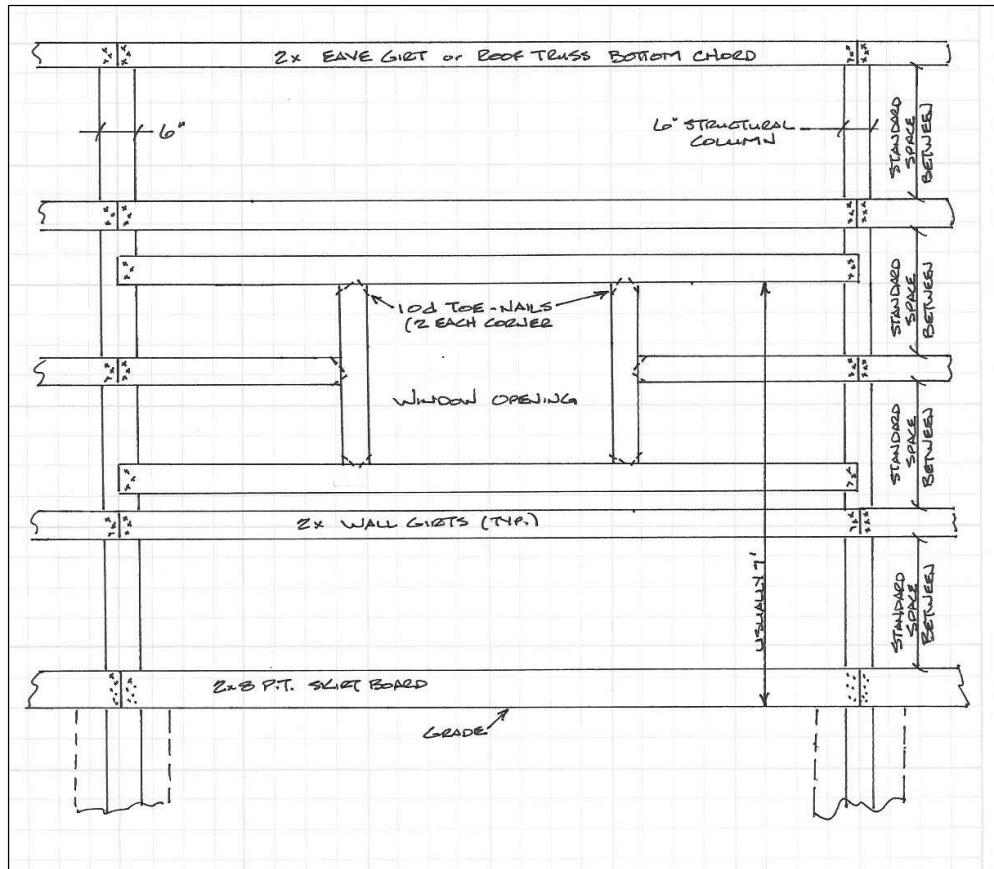


Figure 28-1

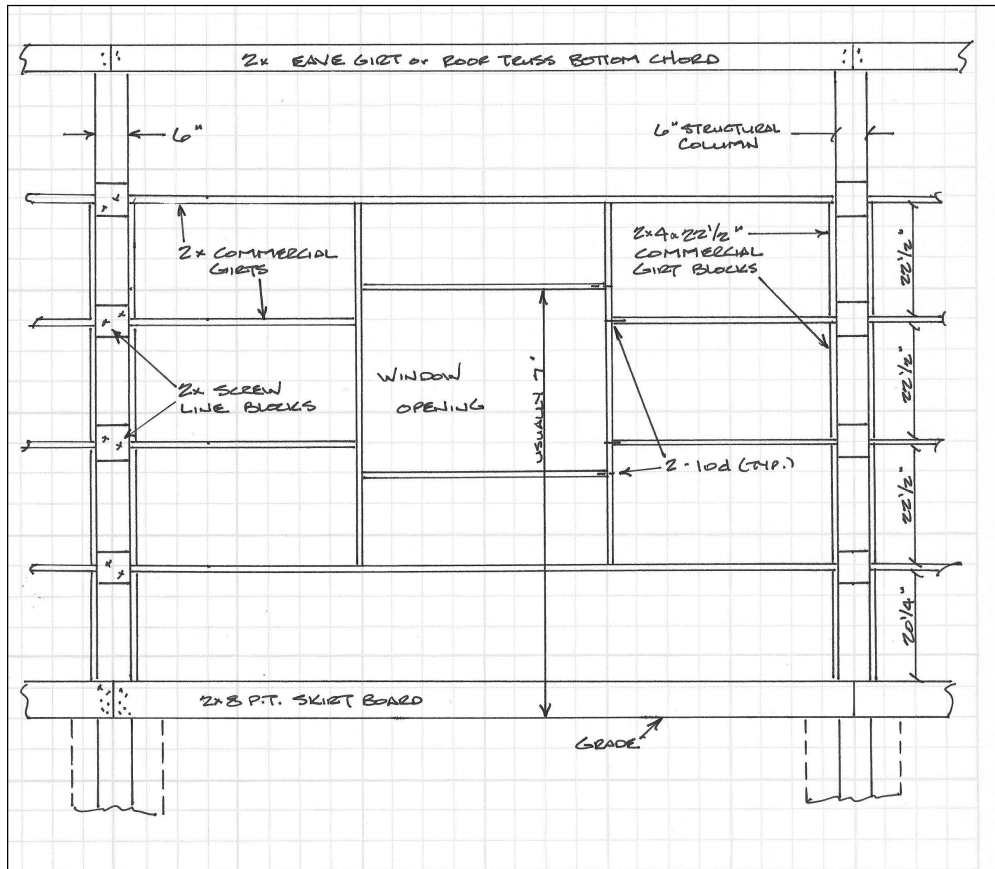


Figure 28-2

Orient window properly **before** placing in rough opening. "Weep" holes will be at bottom.

Install window against surfaces clean and free from debris.

Run a generous silicone caulk bead between flange and outside girt edges.

See **Figure 28-3**.

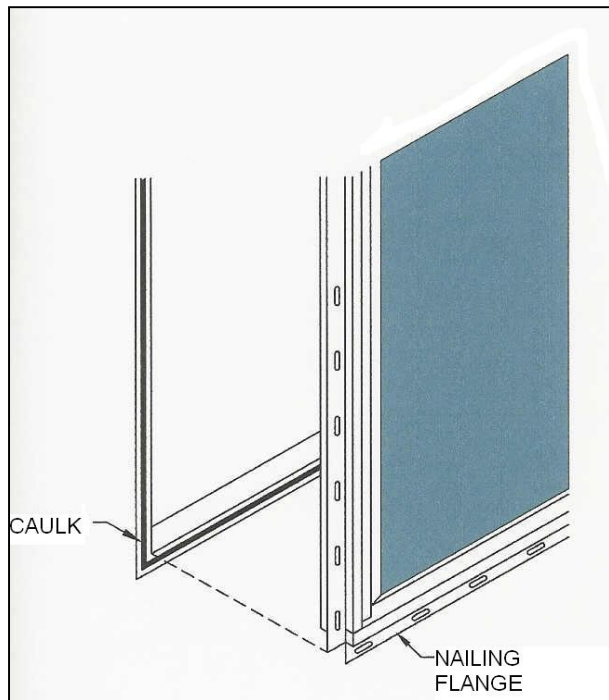


Figure 28-3

Level Sill

Check sill for level. Shim beneath window from inside building if necessary.

Place 1/4" spacers in rough opening corners.

Place window into rough opening from outside. Nail upper right flange end, using 1-3/4" galvanized roofing nails through existing slots in flange.

Check window for level and adjust spacers as needed. **See Figure 28-4.**

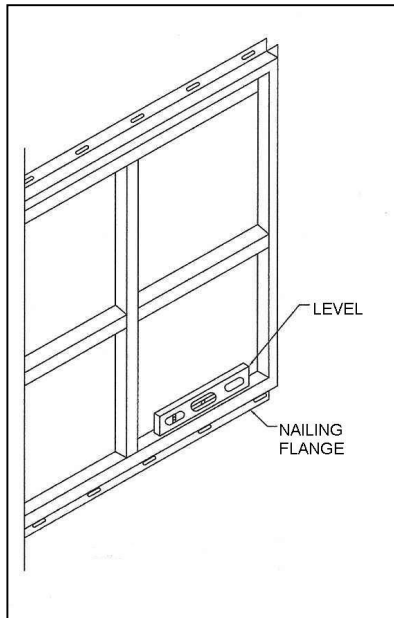


Figure 28-4

Nail Window

With window plumb, nail through flange on window other side at corner and each 10 inches. **See Figure 28-5.**

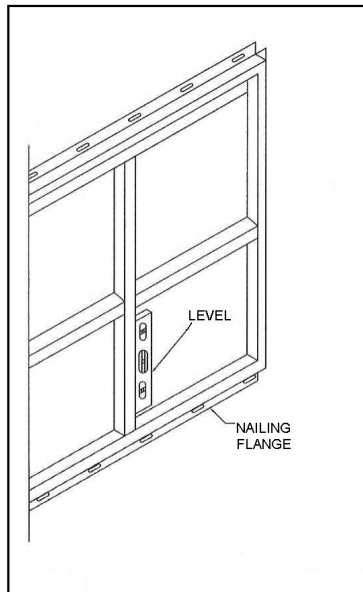


Figure 28-5

The best technique is to drive first few nails partway in and then drive rest of the way once it is determined window is ***level and plumb***.

Check how window operates by opening and closing it several times after placing a few nails and throughout procedure until all nails have been driven home.

Optionally (and recommended), install self-adhesive flashing tape (3M All Weather Flashing Tape 8067 or similar) around window.