Builder Tip

SUPPORT OF BEAMS

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ONTARIO BUILDING CODE

9.23.8.1. Bearing of Beams

(1) Beams shall have even and level bearing and shall have not less than 89 mm (3½ in) length of bearing at end supports, except as required in notes to Table A-8 to A-11.

9.25.3.3. Continuity of the Air Barrier system

(2) Where the air barrier systems consists of flexible sheet material, all joints shall be,

(a) sealed with compatible material such as tape or flexible sealant, or

(b) lapped not less than 100 mm (4 in) and clamped, such as between framing members, furring or blocking and rigid panels.

OBJECTIVE

Beams shall be level and bear evenly.

The minimum 89 mm (3½ in) bearing for wood or steel beams will ensure adequate load transfer from the beam to the support and will avoid the crushing of the beam or its' support.

Beam pockets in a foundation wall will weaken the wall and should be avoided. A masonry pilaster or the thickening of the foundation wall at the beam location is an ideal solution. Constructing in this manner will provide a better bearing support for the beam and will increase the foundation wall stability and strength.

Particular attention must be given to the air-barrier requirements at this location. The detail below depicts a typical steel beam bearing and air-barrier installation.