

Optimizing Floor System Performance with Engineered Wood Products

Presented By: Cory McCambridge



What is APA – The Engineered Wood Association?



1933: Douglas Fir Plywood Association

1994: APA – The Engineered Wood Association





The Douglas Fir Plywood Association grew into the American Plywood Association, and later expanded to become APA – The Engineered Wood Association, as it's known today.

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Webinar Attendee Survey



<https://www.apawood.org/presentation-survey>

Today's Presenter



Cory McCambridge
Engineered Wood Specialist – Canada
Observation Services Lead



The Agenda

- Welcome & Introduction
- Why EWP Floor Systems?
- Product Overview
- System Design Principles, Best Practices & Examples
- APA Resources & Tools
- Q&A/Open Discussion



Learning Objectives

- Can identify the key benefits, applications, and sustainability attributes of engineered wood products (EWP) in residential floor systems.
- Can discuss key design principles — including span, deflection, vibration, fire resistance, and acoustics — that affect the performance of EWP floor systems.
- Can describe best practices for installation, field modification, and moisture protection to improve floor system durability and avoid common jobsite issues.
- Can identify APA tools, resources, and technical support that provide guidance on product selection, design decisions, and jobsite implementation.



The Agenda

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- **Why EWP Floor Systems?**
- Product Overview
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Why Engineered Wood Products?

- ✓ Sustainable
- ✓ Predictable
- ✓ Performance
- ✓ Less Waste

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EWP Floor System Components

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Product Overview: Structural Composite Lumber (SCL)

- Wood grain is primarily oriented in the same direction
- Excellent performance when face- or edge-loaded
- Consistent sizes
- Typically developed proprietarily



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Product Overview: Laminated Veneer Lumber (LVL)

- Veneers bonded together
- Beams, headers, rafters, scaffold planking
- Common thicknesses: 1 1/2", 1 3/4", 3 1/2", 5 1/4"
- Secondary bonding enables thicker LVL



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Product Overview: Parallel Strand Lumber (PSL)

- Veneers clipped into long strands in a parallel formation and bonded together
- Strand length-to-thickness ratio is around 300:1
- Common uses: headers, beams, load-bearing columns
- Common thicknesses: 3 1/2", 5 1/4", 7"
- Typically developed proprietarily



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Product Overview: Laminated Strand Lumber (LSL)

- Flaked strand length-to-thickness ratio is around 150:1
- Common uses: beams, headers, studs, rim board, stair stringers
- Common thicknesses: 1 1/2", 1 3/4", and 3 1/2"



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Product Overview: Oriented Strand Lumber (OSL)

- Flaked strand length-to-thickness ratio is around 75:1
- Common uses: beams, headers, studs, rim board, millwork



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Product Overview: Glued Laminated Timber (GLT)/Glulam

- Wood laminations bonded together
- Wood grain runs parallel to the length of the member
- Common uses: purlins, ridge beams, floor beams, headers, arches, bridges, mass timber structures
- Typical widths: 1 3/4" to 10 3/4"



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Proper Design & Specification

Member Type

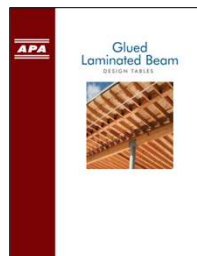
Stiffness Ranges	LVL	LSL	PSL	Glulam	Select Structural
→ Low	2250/1.3 2250/1.5	1700/1.3 1750/1.35 2200/1.5 2325/1.55 2360/1.55	N/A	1600/1.5	SPF 1250/1.1 HF 1400/1.6
→ Mid	2400/1.7 2600/1.9 2650/1.7 2650/1.9	2400/1.6 2600/1.7	N/A	2400/1.8	DF-Larch 1350/1.9 SP Dense 1950/1.9
→ High	2800/2.0 2900/2.0 2950/2.0 3100/2.0	N/A	2900/2.0	3000/2.1	N/A

Proper Design & Specification: Glulam and SCL

Design Tools

- Manufacturer's Literature
 - PLF tables
 - Span, total load, live load, minimum required bearing, beam width and depth, load duration factor
- Glued Laminated Beam Design Tables (Form S475)

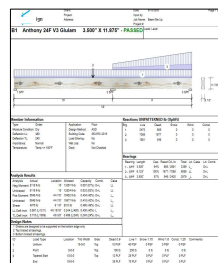
* PLF = pounds per lineal foot



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Proper Design & Specification: Glulam and SCL

- Manufacturer Software
- Third-Party Software



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Proper Design & Specification

Basic Beam Design Concepts

Proprietary

- Structural Composite Lumber (SCL)
 - LVL, LSL, OSL, PSL

Non-Proprietary

- Glulam Beams
 - CSA-086 – Canada
 - ANSI 117 – US
- Dimension Lumber
 - 2x4, 4x6, 8x8



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Wood I-Joist: Depths & Series

Standard Depths Include:

- 9 1/2"
- 11 7/8"
- 14"
- 16"
- 18"

- Design values and limitations vary by manufacturer and series.



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Wood I-Joist: Manufacturer Nomenclature

- AcuTruss Industries (ACJ)
- Boise Cascade Company (BCI)
- EACOM Timber Corporation (PJI)
- IB EWP Inc. (IB)
- Nordic Structures (NI)
- Pacific Woodtech Corporation (PWI / LPI)
- Resolute Engineered Wood (RSI)
- Roseburg Forest Products Company (RFPI)
- Stark Truss Company Inc. (SI)
- Weyerhaeuser (TJI)

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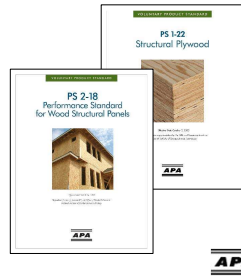
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Wood Structural Panels: Manufacturing Standards

PS 1: Voluntary Product Standard
PRESCRIPTIVE Standard
(revised 2022)

PS 2: Voluntary Product Standard
PERFORMANCE Standard
(revised 2019)



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Wood Structural Panels: Manufacturing Standards

Material must conform to:

- CSA-O121 Douglas Fir Plywood
- CSA-O151 Canadian Softwood Plywood
- CSA-O153 Poplar Plywood
- CSA-O325 Construction Sheathing



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Subfloor Requirements – NBC 2020

Table 9.23.15.5-A
Thickness of Subflooring
Forming Part of Sentences 9.23.15.5.(1) and 9.23.16.7.(1)

Maximum Spacing of Supports, mm	Plywood and OSB, O-3 Grade	OSB, O-1 Grade, and Waterboard, W-1 Grade	Particleboard	Lumber
400	15.5	15.9	15.9	17.0
500	15.5	15.9	18.0	19.0
600	18.5	19.0	25.4	19.0

Table 9.23.15.5-B
Rating for Subfloor when Applying CSA O325
Forming Part of Sentences 9.23.15.5.(1) and 9.23.16.7.(1)

Maximum Spacing of Supports, mm	Subfloor	Used with Panel-Type Underlay
400	IF16	SF16
500	IF20	SF20
600	IF24	SF24

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Subfloor Requirements – NBC 2020

TABLE R503.2.1.1(1)
ALLOWABLE SPANS AND LOADS FOR WOOD STRUCTURAL PANELS FOR ROOF AND SUBFLOOR SHEATHING
AND COMBINATION SUBFLOOR UNDERLAYMENT^{a, b, c}

SPAN RATING	MINIMUM NOMINAL PANEL THICKNESS (inches)	ALLOWABLE LIVE LOAD (psf) ^{d, e}		MAXIMUM SPAN (inches)		LOAD (pounds per square foot, at maximum spans)		MAXIMUM SPAN (inches)
		Span @ 16' o.c.	Span @ 24' o.c.	With edge support ^f	Without edge support	Total load	Live load	
Sheathing ^g								
16/0	$\frac{1}{2}$ "	30	—	16	16	40	30	0
20/0	$\frac{3}{4}$ "	60	—	20	20	40	30	0
24/0	$\frac{1}{2}$ "	160	30	24	24 ^h	40	30	0
24/16	$\frac{3}{4}$ "	100	40	24	24	50	40	16
32/16	$\frac{1}{2}$ "	180	70	32	28	40	30	16 ^h
40/20	$\frac{3}{4}$ "	300	130	40	32	40	30	20 ^{h, i}
40/24	$\frac{1}{2}$ "	—	170	40	36	40	30	24
60/32	$\frac{1}{2}$ "	—	305	60	48	40	30	32
Underlayment, O-C plugged, single floor ^k								
16 o.c.	$\frac{1}{2}$ "	100	40	24	24	50	40	16 ^l
20 o.c.	$\frac{3}{4}$ "	100	60	32	32	40	30	20 ^l
24 o.c.	$\frac{1}{2}$ "	240	100	48	36	35	25	24
32 o.c.	$\frac{3}{4}$ "	—	185	48	40	50	40	32
48 o.c.	$\frac{1}{2}$ "	—	290	60	48	50	40	48

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Design Considerations for Engineered Wood Floor Systems

Identify variables that will impact the performance of the floor system, such as:

- **Finished floor products**
 - (hardwood, ceramic tile, marble, LVT)



Design Considerations for Engineered Wood Floor Systems

- Kitchen islands/soaker tubs/stone-clad fireplaces

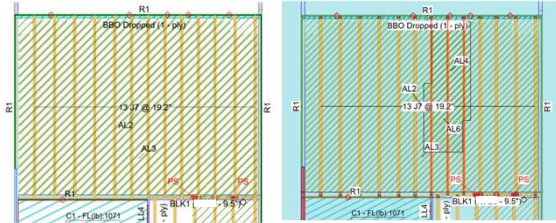


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Design Considerations for Engineered Wood Floor Systems

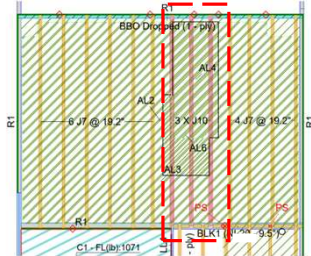
Without Kitchen Island Loading

With Kitchen Island Loading



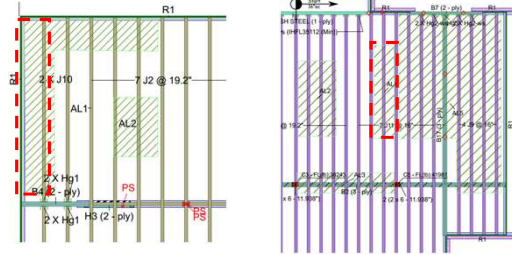
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Design Considerations for Engineered Wood Floor Systems



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Design Considerations for Engineered Wood Floor Systems



Design Considerations for Engineered Wood Floor Systems

Span Conditions

Simple Span:

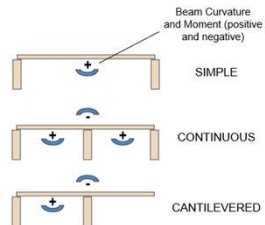
- Joist or beam spans between two supporting members

Continuous Span:

- Joist or beam has three or more supporting members and runs continuous across the middle support(s)

Cantilevered Span:

- Joist or beam spans between two supports but runs continuous across the second support

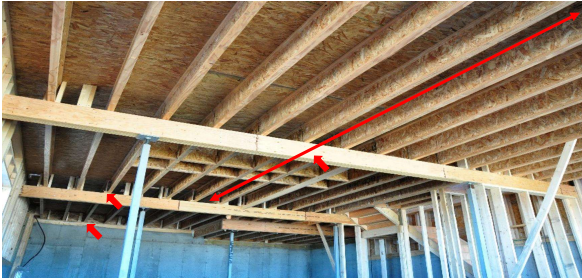


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Span Conditions – Simple Span



Span Conditions – Simple vs. Continuous

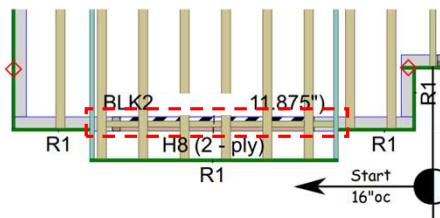


Span Conditions – Cantilever



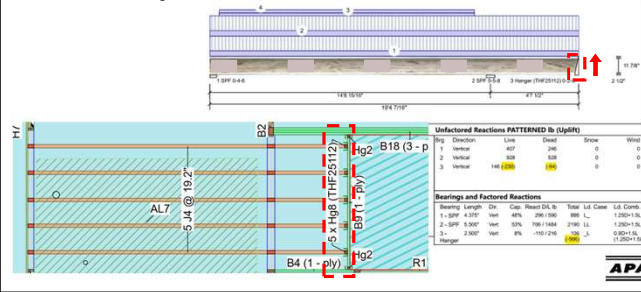
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Span Conditions – Cantilever

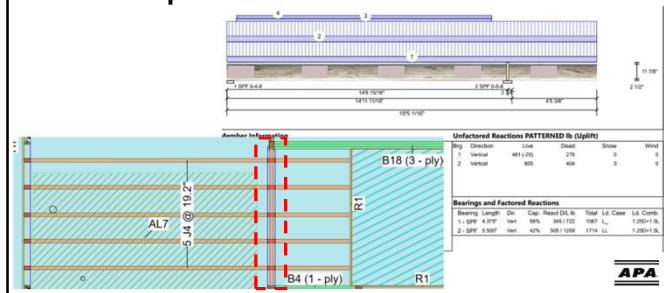


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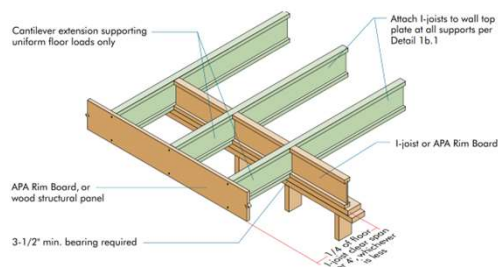
Span Conditions – Cantilever



Span Conditions – Cantilever

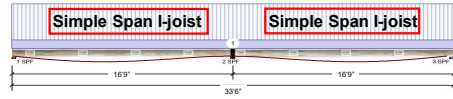


Span Conditions – Cantilever

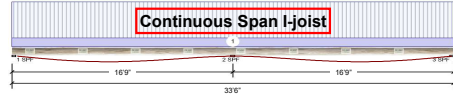


Simple Span vs. Continuous Span

B1 -60 9.5" - **PASSED** @ L/488 or 0.412" deflection



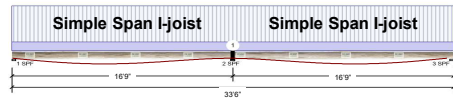
B1 -60 9.5" - **PASSED** @ L/639 or 0.315" deflection



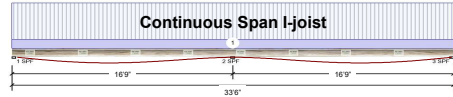
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Simple Span vs. Continuous Span

B1 -60 9.5" - **PASSED** @ L/488 or 0.412" deflection



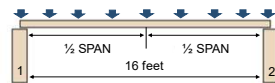
B1 -40 9.5" - **PASSED** @ L/545 or 0.369" deflection



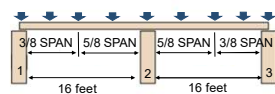
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Design Considerations – Tributary Area

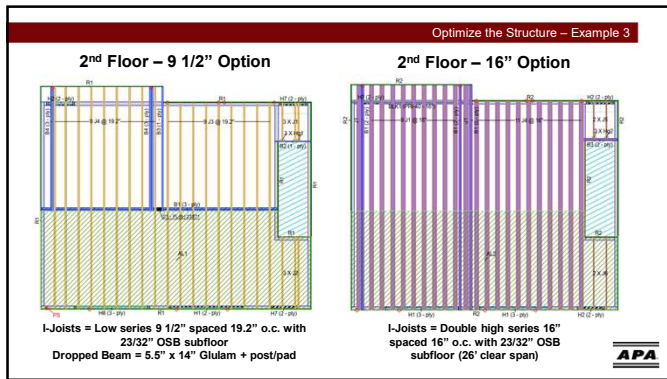
SIMPLE SPAN – UNIFORM LOADING

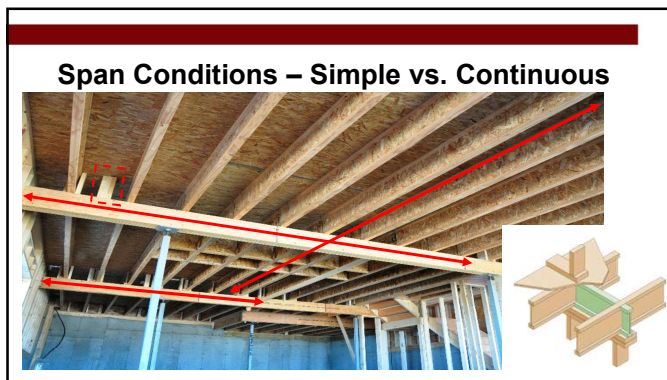


CONTINUOUS SPAN – UNIFORM LOADING



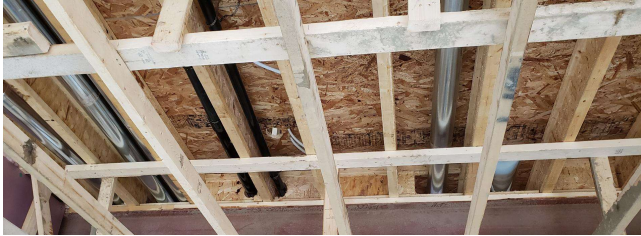
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Lateral Support for I-Joists



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Allowable Holes in I-Joist Blocking Panel

- Holes in Blocking used in EWP Construction (Form TT-040)
 - Outlines the allowable size and placement of holes in the webs of I-joists or Rim Board when used as blocking for lateral restraint of floor and roof joists



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Allowable Holes in I-Joist Blocking Panel

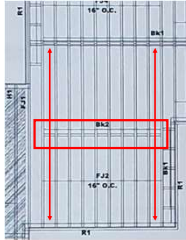
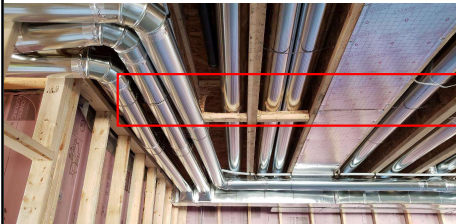
- The maximum allowable hole size for lateral restraint only blocking is two thirds of the lesser dimension of blocking depth or length
- This assumes that the blocking member is longer than its height (depth)

Table 1. Maximum allowable hole diameter in blocking member (where blocking member is longer than its height).

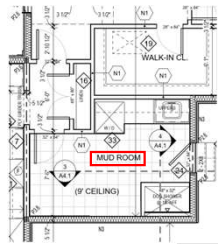
I-joist or Rim Board blocking depth (in.)	Maximum allowable hole diameter (in.)
9-1/2	6-1/4
11-7/8	7-3/4
14	9-1/4
16	10-1/2

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HVAC Interferences with Mid-Span Blocking

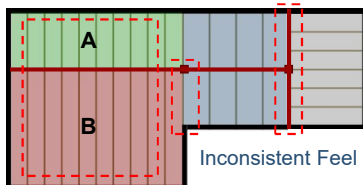


HVAC Interferences with Mid-Span Blocking



Design Considerations – Consistency Counts

Inconsistent Spacing & Span

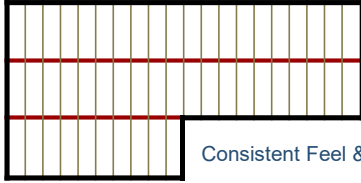


Inconsistent Feel & Performance

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Design Considerations – Consistency Counts

Consistent Spacing & Span

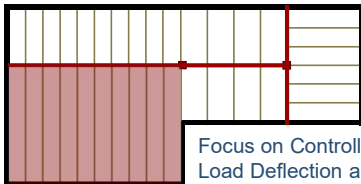


Consistent Feel & Performance

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Design Considerations – Live Load Deflection & Vibration

Inconsistent Spacing & Span



Focus on Controlling Live Load Deflection and Vibration

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Design Considerations for Engineered Wood Floor Systems

Identify variables that will impact the performance of the floor system, such as:

- Deflection Criteria & Vibration Control

TABLE R301-7 ALLOWABLE DEFLECTION OF STRUCTURAL MEMBERS^{5,6}

STRUCTURAL MEMBER	ALLOWABLE DEFLECTION
Rafters having slopes greater than 3/12 with finished ceiling not attached to rafters	L/180
Interior walls and partitions	H/180
Floors	L/360
Ceilings with brittle finishes (including plaster and stucco)	L/500
Ceilings with flexible finishes (including gypsum board)	L/240
All other structural members	L/240
Exterior walls—wood studs ⁷ with plaster or stucco finish	H/500
Exterior walls—wood studs ⁷ with other brittle finishes	H/240
Exterior walls—wood studs ⁷ with flexible finishes	H/120 ⁸
Limbs supporting masonry veneer walls ⁹	L/600

Live Load Deflection L/360 min. L/480 recommended

L = joist span in inches

- Example – span of 18' 0" = 18 feet x 12 inches per foot = 216"

- $216/360 = 0.6"$ – allowable deflection
- $216/480 = 0.45"$ – allowable deflection

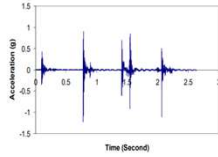
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Design Considerations – Vibration Control

CSA 086-19

5.4.5.2 Floor vibration

For joisted floor systems that consist of a wood-based subfloor structurally attached to a series of equally-spaced floor joists, design shall consider vibration serviceability arising from normal human activities, such as walking action. Recommended design methods are provided in Clause 8.5.4.5. The floor joist products include, but are not limited to, sawn lumber, glulam joists, prefabricated wood I-joists, parallel chord trusses, and structural composite lumber (SCL).



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Design Considerations – Vibration Control

Minimizing Floor Vibration by Design & Retrofit (Form E710)

- This publication covers the subjective nature of vibration perception, fundamental natural frequency, and the criteria for floor vibration control, as well as guidelines to remedy floor vibration problems in existing buildings.



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Design Considerations – Vibration Control

Construction Practices for Wood I-Joist Floor Vibration Retrofit (Form D720)

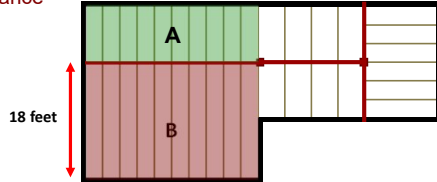
- This publication helps readers identify the causes of and remedies for excessive floor vibration.



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Design Considerations – Live Load Deflection & Vibration

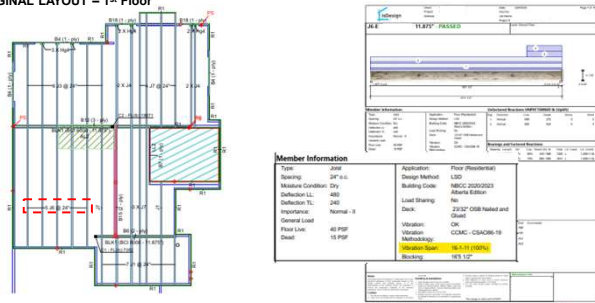
Control live load deflection and vibration for consistent performance



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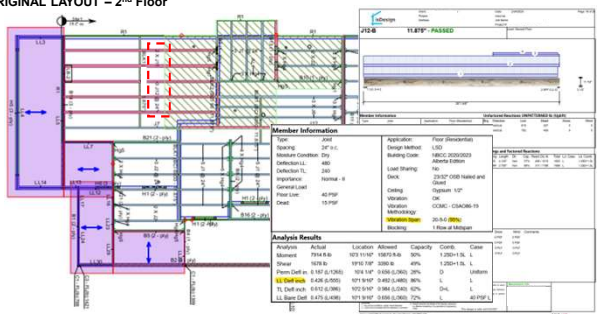
Vibration Example 1

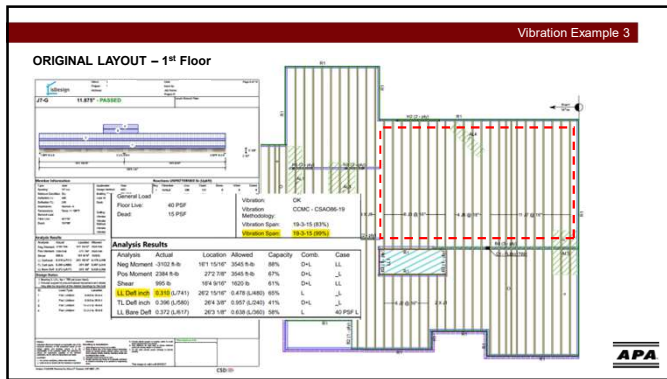
ORIGINAL LAYOUT – 1st Floor

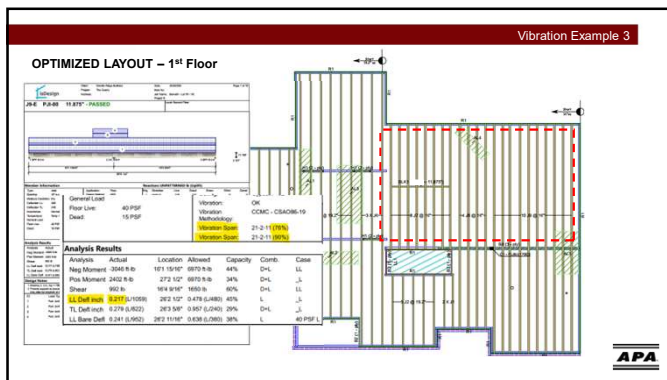


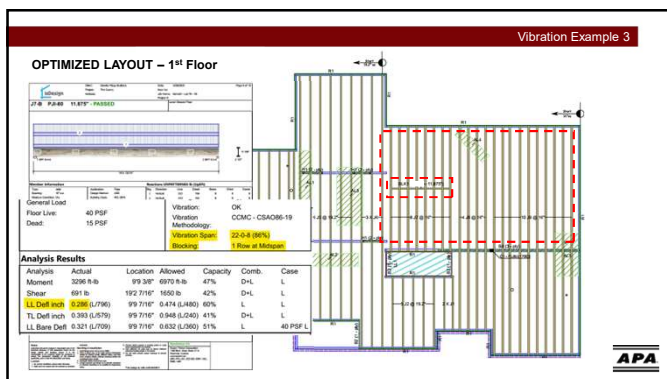
Vibration Example 2

ORIGINAL LAYOUT – 2nd Floor



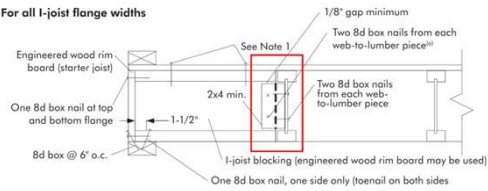






Mid-Span Blocking Connection Details

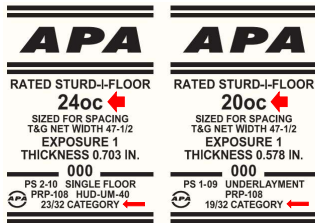
C) For all I-joist flange widths



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Design Considerations for Engineered Wood Floor Systems

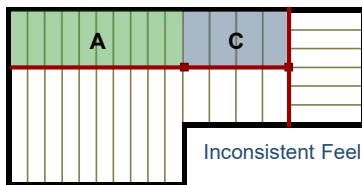
Subfloor thickness and span rating



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Design Considerations – Consistency Counts

Inconsistent Spacing & Span



Inconsistent Feel & Performance

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Design Considerations – Inconsistent Joist Spacing



Hardwood Floor – Underlayment?



Joist Spacing	Minimum Subfloor Performance Category	Minimum Span Rating
≤ 16"	19/32 plywood or 23/32 OSB	40/20 or 1F20 oc
> 16" and ≤ 19.2"	23/32 plywood or OSB	48/24 or 1F24 oc
> 19.2" and ≤ 24"	7/8 plywood or OSB	60/32 or 1F32 oc



Design Considerations for Engineered Wood Floor Systems

Glued and Nailed Subfloor

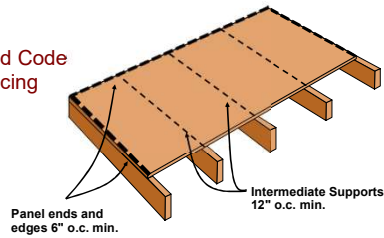
- Composite action increases floor stiffness
- Reduces potential for floor squeaks



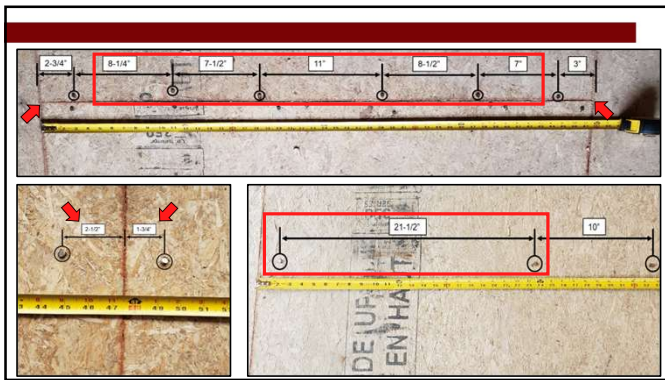
Installation Recommendations – Floor Systems

APA Recommended and Code Minimum Fastener Spacing

- **Panel ends & edges** - 6" on center
- **Intermediate/Field** - 12" on center
- **End/Edge distance** - 3/8 inch



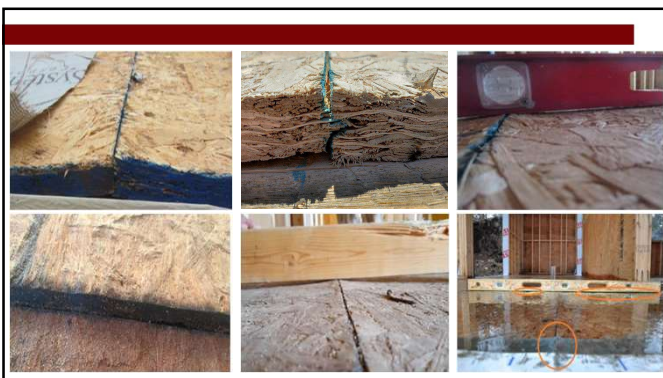
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Improper Connections – Fasteners Missing Framing Members







Building From the Ground Up – Floor Systems

Performance Rated I-Joists Design & Construction Guide (Form Z725)

- Includes information on span ratings, installation details, cantilever designs, architectural specifications and engineering design properties for APA Performance Rated I-Joists



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Building From the Ground Up – Floor Systems

Floors Design & Construction Guide (Form E30)

- Provides information on a variety of floor framing and wood structural panel products that can be used in floor construction

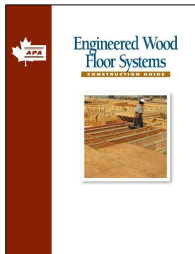


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Building From the Ground Up – Floor Systems

Engineered Wood Floor Systems Design & Construction Guide (Form R300)

- Addresses floor design considerations for Canada
- Provides specification recommendations for plywood and OSB floor systems under carpet and pad, hardwood flooring, lightweight concrete, vinyl and ceramic tile.



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Design Considerations for Engineered Wood Floor Systems



Directly applied ceiling:

- Increased mass and stiffness
- Increased damping – the ability of a material to absorb energy and reduce vibration
- Reduction in vibration and movement

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Fire Protection of Engineered Wood Floors

Fire Protection of Floors Constructed with I-Joists for Compliance with IRC (Form SR-405)

- Provides guidance on fire protection of floors constructed with prefabricated wood I-joist assemblies that complies with 2015, 2018, 2021 and 2024 updates to the International Residential Code.



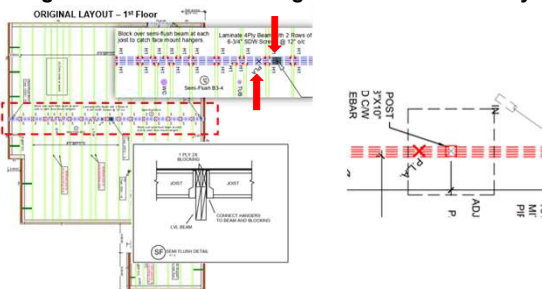
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Design Considerations for Engineered Wood Floor Systems

- Avoid offset point loads from girder trusses or beams where practical
- Identify plumbing and HVAC interference
- Do not mix EWP's with dimension lumber products
- Avoid changing I-joist direction
 - May create a "hump" in the floor
- Easier to install subfloor/finished floor product
 - Easier to incorporate flush HVAC, plumbing and electrical systems
 - Pre-cut holes in I-joists
 - Flex-pipe systems work better in flush conditions

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Design Considerations for Engineered Wood Floor Systems



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Design Considerations for Engineered Wood Floor Systems

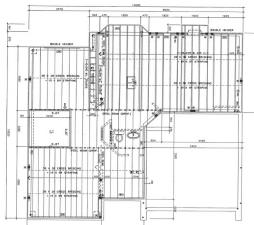


- Early coordination with entire project team: architect, engineer, framer, builder and HVAC designer is essential

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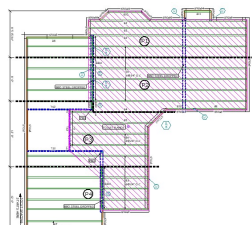
Optimize the Structure – Example 1

**DIMENSION LUMBER LAYOUT
(MAIN FLOOR)**



Total number of joists = 83
148 pcs. cross bridging
108 lf strapping
75 lf of steel

**VALUE ENGINEERED EWP LAYOUT
(MAIN FLOOR)**



Total number of I-joists = 26
0 pcs. cross bridging
0 lf strapping
42 lf of steel

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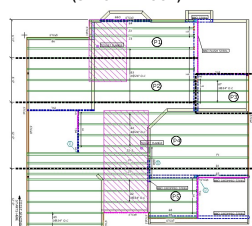
Optimize the Structure – Example 1

**DIMENSION LUMBER LAYOUT
(SECOND FLOOR)**



Total number of joists = 91
154 pcs. cross bridging
127 lf of steel

**VALUE ENGINEERED EWP LAYOUT
(SECOND FLOOR)**



Total number of I-joists = 32
0 pcs. cross bridging
91 lf of steel

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The Agenda

- Welcome & Introduction
- Why EWP Floor Systems?
- Product Overview
- System Design Principles, Best Practices, & Examples
- **APA Resources & Tools**
- Q&A/Open Discussion

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The Agenda

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Questions?

Please complete the survey.

Thank you for attending!



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