

Headers

Headers are required above door and window openings to carry the loads of construction above and transfer the loads to the wall framing at the sides of the opening. The prescriptive tables for floor girders and beams also provide the span and bearing support requirements for headers.

[Ref. Tables R502.5(1) and R502.5(2)]

EXAMPLE

Determine the minimum size and bearing support requirements for a #2 Douglas fir-larch header in an exterior bearing wall as shown in Figure 6-21. The width of the building is 28 feet, the header span is 7 feet, and the snow load is 30 psf. Refer to Table 6-5 and Figure 6-21.

TABLE 6-5 Girder spans and header spans for exterior bearing walls (maximum spans for # 2 grade Douglas fir-larch, hem-fir, southern pine, and spruce-pine-fir and required number of jack studs)

| Girders and Headers Supporting | SIZE | Ground Snow Load (psf) | | | |
|--|---------|------------------------|------|------------|---|
| | | 30 | | | |
| | | Building Width (feet) | | | |
| | | 28 | | 36 | |
| | Span | Jack Studs | Span | Jack Studs | |
| Roof and ceiling | 2- 2×8 | 5-11 | 2 | 5-4 | 2 |
| | 2- 2×10 | 7-3 | 2 | 6-6 | 2 |
| | 2- 2×12 | 8-5 | 2 | 7-6 | 2 |
| | 3- 2×8 | 7-5 | 1 | 6-8 | 1 |
| | 3- 2×10 | 9-1 | 2 | 8-2 | 2 |
| | 3- 2×12 | 10-7 | 2 | 9-5 | 2 |
| Roof, ceiling, and one center-bearing floor | 2- 2×8 | 5-0 | 2 | 4-6 | 2 |
| | 2- 2×10 | 6-2 | 2 | 5-6 | 2 |
| | 2- 2×12 | 7-1 | 2 | 6-5 | 2 |
| | 3- 2×8 | 6-3 | 2 | 5-8 | 2 |
| | 3- 2×10 | 7-8 | 2 | 6-11 | 2 |
| | 3- 2×12 | 8-11 | 2 | 8-0 | 2 |
| Roof, ceiling, and two center-bearing floors | 2- 2×8 | 4-2 | 2 | 3-9 | 2 |
| | 2- 2×10 | 5-1 | 2 | 4-7 | 3 |
| | 2- 2×12 | 5-10 | 3 | 5-3 | 3 |
| | 3- 2×8 | 5-2 | 2 | 4-8 | 2 |
| | 3- 2×10 | 6-4 | 2 | 5-8 | 2 |
| | 3- 2×12 | 7-4 | 2 | 6-7 | 2 |

[Ref. Excerpt of Table R502.5(1)]

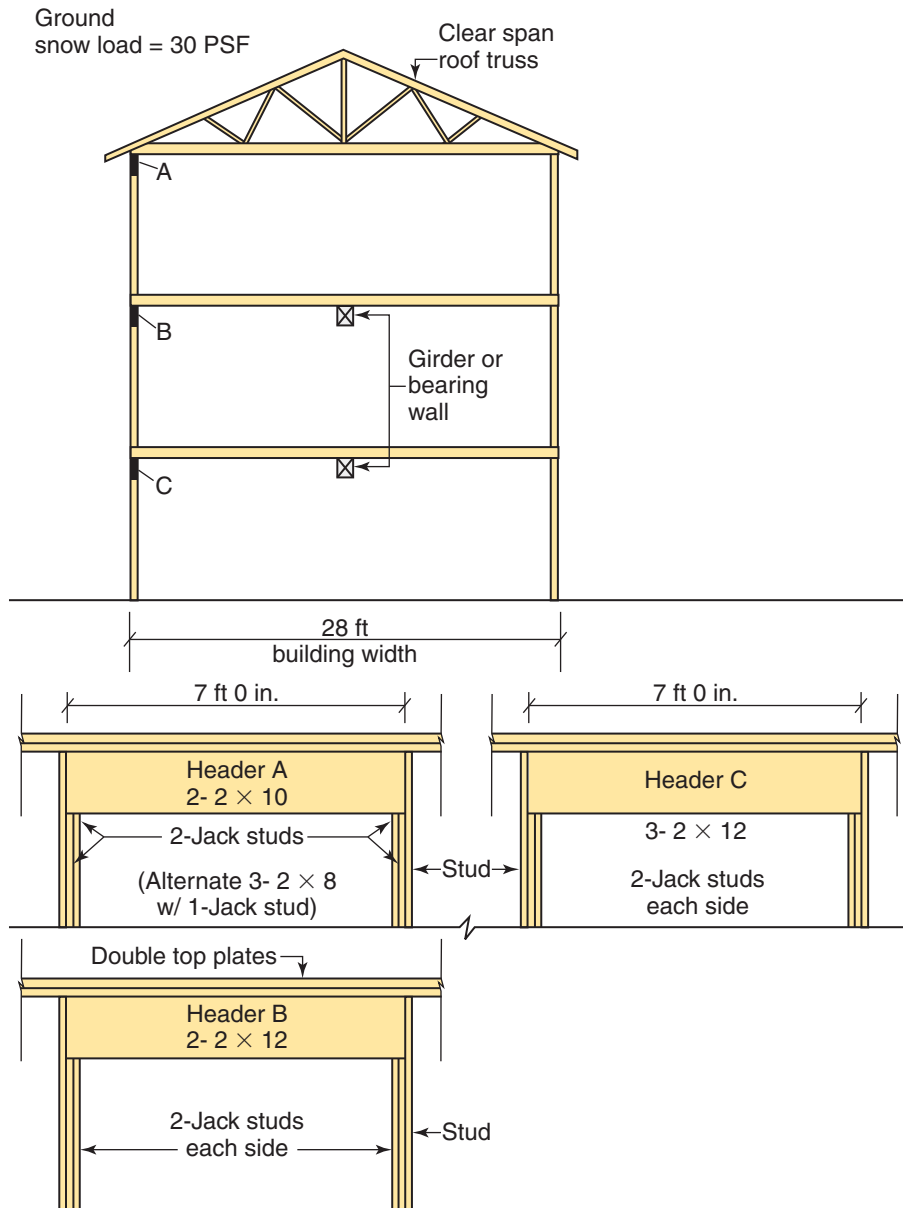


FIGURE 6-21 Exterior header span and bearing support based on Table 6-5