

# **FRAMING TERMS**

**Birds Beak (Crow's mouth)** Term used to describe completed seat and heel cuts on a rafter.

**Bottom Plate** The bottom, horizontal structural member of a stud framed wall. The bottom plate sets on the subfloor, nails through the subfloor into floor joists.

**Cap Plate** The upper top plate.

**Corner Post** The wall stud and spacer blocks that create an interior nailing surface for drywall at a framed corner.

**Cripple Stud** Short studs placed between the header and a top plate or between a sill and sole plate.

**Girder** A larger beam of wood or steel used as the principle support of concentrated loads at points along its span.

**Header** A beam placed perpendicular to wall studs above doors, windows or other openings to carry the weight of structural loads.

**Heel (Heel Cut)** The vertical/plum cut perpendicular at the seat cut of a rafter, at the outside face of a supporting wall.

**Jack Stud (Trimmer Stud)** Stud to the outside of a window or door that runs from the bottom plate to the underside of a lintel or header

**Joist** Parallel framing member installed horizontally to support floor and ceiling loads.

**King Stud** Stud to the outside of a window or door that is continuous from the bottom plate to the top plate

**On Center (O.C.)** The term used to define the measured spacing between studs, joists, rafters, etc. O.C. measurements are taken from the center of one member to the center of the adjoining member.

**Pitch** The angle of the roof slope, measured as "X" inches per 12" (x/12). Roof pitches commonly range from 4/12 to 8/12. To calculate a roof's pitch, place a carpenter's level positioned level on roof line, measure out 12" on the level, from that 12" point measure down to the roof line. This figure (i.e. 4" to 8") is the first number of the pitch.

**Ridge Board** Typically a 2x8 or greater horizontal framing member used to construct roofs. This member extends the length of a roof and rafters are attached to it.

**Rough Opening** The framed-in opening, slightly larger than the actual window/door, that replaces wall studs to support the structure and accommodate a window/door.

**Seat (Seat Cut)** The horizontal cut portion of a rafter which sets on a cap plate.

**Sill** The piece of structural wood forming the lower side of a window opening.

**Sill Plate** The horizontal wood member that is anchored to the foundation masonry to provide a nailing surface for floors or walls built above.

**Sole Plate** The bottom horizontal structural member of a stud framed wall.

**Span** The distance between the structural supports in floors, ceilings and roofs.

**Stick-Building** Assembling framing one member at a time on the job site, instead of raising prefabricating walls or trusses as a unit.

**Stud** A 2x4 or 2x6 vertical framing member used to construct walls and partitions.

**Subfloor** Boards or plywood installed over joists on which the finish floor is laid.

**Top Plate** The top horizontal framing members of a framed wall.