



# TECH NOTES

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## **Design Load Tables for Wood Studwalls Subjected to Wind Pressure**

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The design of wood studwalls for wind pressure is complicated, as two or more load combinations must be considered. Since hand computations are very time consuming, Western Wood Products Association has prepared a useful set of design load tables for Douglas Fir-Larch and Hem-Fir lumber according to the 1991 edition of ANSI/AF&PA National Design Specification (NDS) for Wood Construction.

### **Design Procedures**

The 1991 NDS, published by the American Forest & Paper Association, is the design specification for wood construction. The 1991 NDS design provisions used for studwalls subjected to out-of-plane wind pressure are: the column formula, the combined bending and axial compression interaction equation, load duration factor, and lumber design values.

The 1991 NDS provides a load duration factor of 1.6 for wind, which corresponds to a cumulative load duration of approximately 10 minutes over the service life of the structure. A note on the use of the load duration factor is included in the **Notes to Designers** section shown on the following pages. The lumber design values are the result of full-size lumber testing.

### **Load Tables for Combined Bending and Compression Forces**

Tables 1 and 2 show allowable axial compressive loads per stud for several commonly used combinations of ceiling heights, stud spacings, lumber sizes and lumber grades. Effective column length is 4-1/2 inches less than the ceiling height, to account for two top plates and one bottom plate typically found in light-frame construction.

The allowable loads listed in the tables are calculated assuming the studwalls are sheathed to prevent buckling of studs with respect to the weak axis. Slenderness ratio is determined using the actual dimensions of bare studs. The cases where lateral load has caused overstress in the studs by bending alone are marked as "----" in the tables. In these cases, larger sizes and/or higher grades of lumber are needed.

**Table 1** reflects interior studwalls subjected to the code-required minimum 5 psf lateral pressure with load duration factors of 1.0, 1.15 and 1.25 corresponding to controlling load combinations with occupancy live load (10 years duration), snow load (two months duration) and roof live load (seven days duration), respectively.

**Table 2** shows allowable loads for wind pressures of 10, 15, 20 and 25 psf. The allowable axial compressive loads are calculated using the load combination of wind pressure (load duration factor of 1.6) plus the sum of all vertical loads, including dead, occupancy live, and snow (or roof live) loads. Load combinations with vertical loads only (no wind pressure) were also checked with load duration factors of 1.15 and 1.25. The smallest allowable loads from these combinations, with and without wind, are tabulated in this table.

*(Continued on page 2)*

## Check for Crushing at the Bottom Plate

The allowable compression perpendicular-to-grain stresses are independent of grade — one value for each species. The maximum allowable vertical loads per stud computed using the allowable compression perpendicular-to-grain stress adjusted for a 1.25 bearing area factor are:

<u>Species Group</u>	<u>2x4</u>	<u>3x4</u>	<u>2x6</u>
Douglas Fir-Larch	4102 lbs	6836 lbs	6445 lbs
Hem-Fir	2657 lbs	4430 lbs	4177 lbs

## Check for Allowable Deflection

Excessive deflection may cause damage to finished materials. Table 3 provides the allowable ceiling heights based on lateral bending deflections under static wind pressure alone (no system effect is considered).

Deflection is a serviceability limit. Limiting member deflection for worst-case extreme events, such as a hurricane, would result in unreasonable (conservative) designs.

### Example:

8' exterior wall sheathed with 3/8" CD Plywood outside and 1/2" Type X gypsum wallboard inside, 2x4 Douglas Fir-Larch STUD grade studs 16" o.c. 2x4 Douglas Fir-Larch Standard & Btr. grade for top and bottom plates. 15 psf wind pressure. 1,000 lbs per linear foot (PLF) vertical bearing load.

**Step 1. Check allowable axial compressive load and bending load combination.**

Calculate vertical load per stud:  $1000 \times (16/12) = 1333$  lbs  
 Allowable load from Table 2: 1431 lbs per stud.  
 $1333 \text{ lbs} < 1431 \text{ lbs} \implies \text{O.K.}$

**Step 2. Check crushing on plates.**

Vertical load per stud (from Step 1): 1333 lbs.  
 Max. allowable load for crushing per stud: 4102 lbs  
 $1333 \text{ lbs} < 4102 \text{ lbs} \implies \text{O.K.}$

**Step 3. Check lateral deflection.**

Gypsum wallboard: Limit deflection to  $L/240$ .  
 Maximum ceiling height from Table 3: 9'-9".  
 Wall height: 8'-0" < 9'-9"  $\implies \text{O.K.}$

**NOTE:** The weight of the wall itself is not considered in this example.

## Notes to Designers

### ***1. Load Combination Factor of 1.33***

Most model building codes provide an allowable stress increase of 33% for load combinations that include wind loads — a 1.33 load combination factor. This factor accounts for the low probability of having all loads in the load combination to occur simultaneously, and is independent of the 1.6 load duration factor provided in the 1991 NDS. The 1.33 load combination factor was not used in preparing the allowable load values here because the Uniform Building Code, at this time, does not allow the use of both factors together in a design.

(Continued on page 3)

## ***II. Prescriptive Construction Codes***

For a majority of residential buildings, prescriptive construction codes are used. The CABO One and Two Family Dwelling Code is a widely accepted prescriptive code. Other codes (UBC, SBCCI and BOCA) contain prescriptive provisions as part of the code. It should be noted that some of the prescriptive code provisions allow for designs where the applied member stresses (based on the bare member capacity alone) exceed the allowable stresses. One can find instances where a design is not acceptable according to the tables shown here, but is allowed per the prescriptive code provisions. Prescriptive code provisions are largely based on field experience, as wood studwalls have performed well for many years. Research at Oregon State University has shown a system factor of as much as 1.5 for bending strength of sheathed wood studwalls. This system factor is not yet recognized in the engineering calculations.

## ***III. Load Duration Factor***

The tabulated compression design value shall be multiplied by all applicable adjustment factors, including the load duration factor but not including the column stability factor, before entering to the column formula. The load duration factor for the shortest duration load in a combination of loads shall apply for that load combination. All applicable load combination shall be evaluated to determine the critical load combination.

## ***IV. Evolution of Wind Loads***

The design wind load criteria and its interpretations continue to evolve. Through the efforts of the engineering staff of the American Wood Council, American Forest & Paper Association (the publisher of NDS), the wind engineering community is now endorsing recommendations that studs should be engineered using Main Wind-Force Resisting System pressures when considering interactions of axial and bending stresses and designed using Components and Cladding pressures when considering axial or bending stresses individually. This interpretation is now written into the SBCCI's Standard Building Code and into the proposed ASCE 7-95 definitions. This new interpretation allows better utilization of stud lumber.

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**ALLOWABLE AXIAL COMPRESSIVE LOAD PER STUD (LBS) FOR INTERIOR WALLS** Table 1

SPECIES	GRADE	SIZE	Ceiling Height											
			8 ft			10 ft			12 ft			16 ft		
			12" o.c.	16" o.c.	24" o.c.	12" o.c.	16" o.c.	24" o.c.	12" o.c.	16" o.c.	24" o.c.	12" o.c.	16" o.c.	24" o.c.

Wood Studwalls subjected to 5 psf Lateral Pressure														DOL=1.00	
DF-L	STUD	2x4	1950	1805	1541	1131	991	733	659	526	265	192	48	---	
		3x4	3578	3407	3102	2199	2035	1743	1388	1238	965	586	452	181	
		2x6	5410	5283	5031	4315	4110	3725	3150	2911	2476	1558	1326	886	
	STANDARD	2x4	1907	1710	1351	1008	827	474	526	348	---	40	---	---	
	No.2	2x4	2642	2514	2291	1570	1457	1257	984	883	701	420	332	158	
		2x6	8398	8246	7955	6145	5930	5544	4301	4082	3695	2197	2007	1666	
HF	STUD	2x4	1710	1580	1347	978	857	633	567	453	227	165	41	---	
		3x4	3144	2990	2718	1904	1761	1507	1196	1066	830	503	388	155	
		2x6	5066	4939	4689	3904	3710	3350	2775	2561	2173	1347	1145	765	
	STANDARD	2x4	1650	1479	1167	868	711	408	452	299	---	34	---	---	
	No.2	2x4	2170	2062	1872	1276	1181	1014	795	711	559	336	262	115	
		2x6	7419	7266	6976	5175	4981	4637	3542	3355	3026	1782	1623	1338	

Wood Studwalls subjected to 5 psf Lateral Pressure														DOL=1.16	
DF-L	STUD	2x4	2064	1926	1679	1201	1073	839	717	598	370	244	126	---	
		3x4	3754	3590	3299	2294	2142	1872	1459	1322	1074	642	522	291	
		2x6	6038	5904	5644	4679	4473	4093	3353	3125	2715	1670	1458	1065	
	STANDARD	2x4	2012	1830	1502	1089	925	615	598	442	115	120	---	---	
	No.2	2x4	2732	2613	2403	1627	1523	1340	1030	938	772	457	378	228	
		2x6	9099	8940	8639	6450	6240	5866	4464	4258	3896	2290	2115	1804	
HF	STUD	2x4	1801	1679	1462	1037	926	724	617	514	318	210	108	---	
		3x4	3281	3135	2877	1982	1850	1616	1256	1137	924	551	448	249	
		2x6	5613	5480	5222	4196	4003	3651	2938	2735	2371	1442	1258	918	
	STANDARD	2x4	1738	1580	1296	936	795	529	514	380	99	103	---	---	
	No.2	2x4	2238	2137	1961	1322	1235	1082	833	756	618	366	300	174	
		2x6	7934	7775	7481	5388	5202	4873	3665	3489	3183	1857	1711	1451	

Wood Studwalls subjected to 5 psf Lateral Pressure														DOL=1.26	
DF-L	STUD	2x4	2126	1993	1755	1241	1119	898	749	637	426	272	165	---	
		3x4	3849	3689	3407	2347	2201	1943	1499	1368	1134	672	560	347	
		2x6	6420	6283	6017	4883	4678	4301	3465	3244	2848	1733	1531	1162	
	STANDARD	2x4	2070	1896	1586	1133	978	690	637	492	200	160	---	---	
	No.2	2x4	2782	2666	2466	1659	1560	1385	1055	968	812	477	403	264	
		2x6	9494	9332	9025	6613	6407	6041	4553	4354	4007	2343	2175	1880	
HF	STUD	2x4	1851	1734	1525	1070	965	774	644	548	366	233	142	---	
		3x4	3356	3214	2965	2026	1899	1676	1290	1177	975	577	481	298	
		2x6	5940	5803	5541	4356	4165	3819	3027	2831	2482	1494	1320	1002	
	STANDARD	2x4	1786	1636	1367	974	841	593	547	423	171	137	---	---	
	No.2	2x4	2276	2179	2010	1347	1265	1119	853	781	651	383	321	205	
		2x6	8215	8054	7759	5502	5321	5002	3732	3563	3270	1899	1760	1514	



**ALLOWABLE AXIAL COMPRESSIVE LOAD PER STUD (LBS) FOR EXTERIOR WALLS** **Table 2**

SPECIES	GRADE	SIZE	Ceiling Height											
			8 ft			10 ft			12 ft			16 ft		
			12" o.c.	16" o.c.	24" o.c.	12" o.c.	16" o.c.	24" o.c.	12" o.c.	16" o.c.	24" o.c.	12" o.c.	16" o.c.	24" o.c.

Wood Studwalls subjected to 10 psf Wind Pressure													DOL=1.60		
DF-L	STUD	2x4	1958	1771	1431	1052	880	554	566	401	42	87	---	---	
		3x4	3692	3468	3073	2134	1936	1579	1293	1113	779	488	321	---	
		2x6	6454	6454	6338	4859	4535	3951	3202	2886	2311	1416	1128	559	
	STANDARD	2x4	1807	1566	1119	882	658	191	395	160	---	---	---	---	
		No.2	2x4	2631	2476	2205	1507	1374	1136	915	796	576	355	247	8
			2x6	10040	9620	9232	6494	6198	5679	4300	4030	3556	2082	1856	1447
HF	STUD	2x4	1694	1531	1236	905	758	476	487	345	36	74	---	---	
		3x4	3197	3002	2658	1837	1666	1359	1111	957	669	419	275	---	
		2x6	6037	6037	5711	4266	3977	3458	2775	2500	2000	1218	971	481	
	STANDARD	2x4	1555	1348	963	757	565	164	339	138	---	---	---	---	
		No.2	2x4	2141	2011	1785	1219	1108	909	736	637	453	281	190	---
			2x6	8470	8207	7740	5338	5086	4646	3501	3276	2878	1680	1492	1151

Wood Studwalls subjected to 15 psf Wind Pressure													DOL=1.60		
DF-L	STUD	2x4	1682	1431	955	798	554	7	318	42	---	---	---	---	
		3x4	3364	3073	2549	1843	1579	1086	1028	779	266	235	---	---	
		2x6	6454	6338	5636	4383	3951	3156	2737	2311	1500	988	559	---	
	STANDARD	2x4	1451	1119	443	546	191	---	26	---	---	---	---	---	
		No.2	2x4	2404	2205	1849	1312	1136	810	740	576	248	192	8	---
			2x6	9617	9232	8541	6061	5679	5003	3905	3556	2929	1750	1447	865
HF	STUD	2x4	1455	1236	824	686	476	6	273	36	---	---	---	---	
		3x4	2911	2658	2203	1586	1359	934	883	669	229	202	---	---	
		2x6	6037	5711	5059	3841	3458	2755	2370	2000	1296	850	481	---	
	STANDARD	2x4	1249	963	380	469	164	---	22	---	---	---	---	---	
		No.2	2x4	1951	1785	1487	1056	909	636	590	453	176	144	---	---
			2x6	8084	7740	7128	4970	4646	4073	3171	2878	2353	1404	1151	662

Wood Studwalls subjected to 20 psf Wind Pressure													DOL=1.60		
DF-L	STUD	2x4	1431	1112	464	554	209	---	42	---	---	---	---	---	
		3x4	3073	2718	2064	1579	1248	588	779	445	---	---	---	---	
		2x6	6454	5865	4972	3951	3414	2395	2311	1769	646	559	---	---	
	STANDARD	2x4	1119	677	---	191	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	
		No.2	2x4	2205	1963	1522	1136	916	487	576	360	---	8	---	---
			2x6	9232	8762	7915	5679	5219	4393	3556	3131	2349	1447	1059	237
HF	STUD	2x4	1236	960	399	476	180	---	36	---	---	---	---	---	
		3x4	2658	2349	1783	1359	1074	505	669	382	---	---	---	---	
		2x6	5711	5270	4448	3458	2983	2086	2000	1529	556	481	---	---	
	STANDARD	2x4	963	581	---	164	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	
		No.2	2x4	1785	1582	1212	909	726	365	453	272	---	---	---	---
			2x6	7740	7323	6579	4646	4256	3557	2878	2522	1865	1151	825	125

Wood Studwalls subjected to 25 psf Wind Pressure													DOL=1.60		
DF-L	STUD	2x4	1191	796	---	300	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	
		3x4	2804	2385	1592	1330	923	12	530	70	---	---	---	---	
		2x6	6454	5412	4326	3545	2901	1620	1904	1226	---	73	---	---	
	STANDARD	2x4	789	188	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	
		No.2	2x4	2021	1737	1206	970	703	132	415	127	---	---	---	---
			2x6	8876	8326	7333	5330	4794	3819	3234	2733	1782	1155	666	---
HF	STUD	2x4	1029	686	---	258	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	
		3x4	2424	2061	1373	1144	794	10	455	60	---	---	---	---	
		2x6	5378	4852	3858	3099	2531	1407	1646	1058	---	63	---	---	
	STANDARD	2x4	678	162	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	
		No.2	2x4	1631	1393	947	771	547	60	318	73	---	---	---	---
			2x6	7423	6939	6071	4350	3897	3072	2609	2188	1387	906	493	---

**ALLOWABLE CEILING HEIGHTS (ft-in.) BASED ON DEFLECTIONS**

**Table 3**

SPECIES	GRADE	SIZE	Deflection Criteria											
			L/120			L/180			L/240			L/360		
			12" o.c.	16" o.c.	24" o.c.	12" o.c.	16" o.c.	24" o.c.	12" o.c.	16" o.c.	24" o.c.	12" o.c.	16" o.c.	24" o.c.

Wood Studwalls subjected to 10 psf Wind Pressure															
DF-L	STUD	2x4	15-4	13-11	12-3	13-5	12-3	10-9	12-3	11-2	9-9	10-9	9-9	8-7	
		3x4	18-1	16-6	14-5	15-10	14-5	12-8	14-5	13-2	11-6	12-8	11-6	10-1	
		2x6	23-10	21-8	19-0	20-11	19-0	16-8	19-0	17-4	15-2	16-8	15-2	13-4	
	STANDARD	2x4	15-4	13-11	12-3	13-5	12-3	10-9	12-3	11-2	9-9	10-9	9-9	8-7	
		No.2	2x4	16-0	14-7	12-9	14-0	12-9	11-2	12-9	11-8	10-3	11-2	10-3	9-0
			2x6	24-11	22-8	19-10	21-10	19-10	17-5	19-10	18-1	15-10	17-5	15-10	13-11
HF	STUD	2x4	14-7	13-3	11-8	12-9	11-8	10-3	11-8	10-7	9-4	10-3	9-4	8-2	
		3x4	17-2	15-8	13-9	15-1	13-9	12-1	13-9	12-6	11-0	12-1	11-0	9-8	
		2x6	22-8	20-8	18-1	19-10	18-1	15-10	18-1	16-5	14-5	15-10	14-5	12-8	
	STANDARD	2x4	14-7	13-3	11-8	12-9	11-8	10-3	11-8	10-7	9-4	10-3	9-4	8-2	
		No.2	2x4	14-11	13-7	11-11	13-1	11-11	10-6	11-11	10-11	9-7	10-6	9-7	8-5
			2x6	23-3	21-2	18-7	20-5	18-7	16-3	18-7	16-11	14-10	16-3	14-10	13-0

Wood Studwalls subjected to 15 psf Wind Pressure															
DF-L	STUD	2x4	13-5	12-3	10-9	11-9	10-9	9-5	10-9	9-9	8-7	9-5	8-7	7-7	
		3x4	15-10	14-5	12-8	13-11	12-8	11-1	12-8	11-6	10-1	11-1	10-1	8-11	
		2x6	20-11	19-0	16-8	18-3	16-8	14-7	16-8	15-2	13-4	14-7	13-4	11-8	
	STANDARD	2x4	13-5	12-3	10-9	11-9	10-9	9-5	10-9	9-9	8-7	9-5	8-7	7-7	
		No.2	2x4	14-0	12-9	11-2	12-4	11-2	9-10	11-2	10-3	9-0	9-10	9-0	7-11
			2x6	21-10	19-10	17-5	19-1	17-5	15-3	17-5	15-10	13-11	15-3	13-11	12-2
HF	STUD	2x4	12-9	11-8	10-3	11-2	10-3	9-0	10-3	9-4	8-2	9-0	8-2	7-2	
		3x4	15-1	13-9	12-1	13-3	12-1	10-7	12-1	11-0	9-8	10-7	9-8	8-6	
		2x6	19-10	18-1	15-10	17-5	15-10	13-11	15-10	14-5	12-8	13-11	12-8	11-1	
	STANDARD	2x4	12-9	11-8	10-3	11-2	10-3	9-0	10-3	9-4	8-2	9-0	8-2	7-2	
		No.2	2x4	13-1	11-11	10-6	11-6	10-6	9-2	10-6	9-7	8-5	9-2	8-5	7-5
			2x6	20-5	18-7	16-3	17-10	16-3	14-3	16-3	14-10	13-0	14-3	13-0	11-5

Wood Studwalls subjected to 20 psf Wind Pressure															
DF-L	STUD	2x4	12-3	11-2	9-9	10-9	9-9	8-7	9-9	8-11	7-10	8-7	7-10	6-11	
		3x4	14-5	13-2	11-8	12-8	11-6	10-1	11-6	10-6	9-3	10-1	9-3	8-1	
		2x6	19-0	17-4	15-2	16-8	15-2	13-4	15-2	13-10	12-1	13-4	12-1	10-8	
	STANDARD	2x4	12-3	11-2	9-9	10-9	9-9	8-7	9-9	8-11	7-10	8-7	7-10	6-11	
		No.2	2x4	12-9	11-8	10-3	11-2	10-3	9-0	10-3	9-4	8-2	9-0	8-2	7-2
			2x6	19-10	18-1	15-10	17-5	15-10	13-11	15-10	14-5	12-8	13-11	12-8	11-1
HF	STUD	2x4	11-8	10-7	9-4	10-3	9-4	8-2	9-4	8-6	7-6	8-2	7-6	6-7	
		3x4	13-9	12-6	11-0	12-1	11-0	9-8	11-0	10-0	8-9	9-8	8-9	7-9	
		2x6	18-1	16-5	14-5	15-10	14-5	12-8	14-5	13-2	11-6	12-8	11-6	10-1	
	STANDARD	2x4	11-8	10-7	9-4	10-3	9-4	8-2	9-4	8-6	7-6	8-2	7-6	6-7	
		No.2	2x4	11-11	10-11	9-7	10-6	9-7	8-5	9-7	8-9	7-8	8-5	7-8	6-9
			2x6	18-7	16-11	14-10	16-3	14-10	13-0	14-10	13-6	11-10	13-0	11-10	10-5

Wood Studwalls subjected to 25 psf Wind Pressure															
DF-L	STUD	2x4	11-5	10-5	9-1	10-0	9-1	8-0	9-1	8-4	7-4	8-0	7-4	6-5	
		3x4	13-5	12-3	10-9	11-9	10-9	9-5	10-9	9-9	8-7	9-5	8-7	7-7	
		2x6	17-8	16-1	14-1	15-6	14-1	12-4	14-1	12-10	11-3	12-4	11-3	9-11	
	STANDARD	2x4	11-5	10-5	9-1	10-0	9-1	8-0	9-1	8-4	7-4	8-0	7-4	6-5	
		No.2	2x4	11-11	10-10	9-6	10-5	9-6	8-4	9-6	8-8	7-8	8-4	7-8	6-9
			2x6	18-6	16-10	14-9	16-2	14-9	12-11	14-9	13-5	11-9	12-11	11-9	10-4
HF	STUD	2x4	10-10	9-11	8-8	9-8	8-8	7-8	8-8	7-11	7-0	7-8	7-0	6-2	
		3x4	12-9	11-8	10-3	11-2	10-3	9-0	10-3	9-4	8-2	7-0	8-2	7-2	
		2x6	16-10	15-4	13-5	14-9	13-5	11-9	13-5	12-3	10-9	11-9	10-9	9-5	
	STANDARD	2x4	10-10	9-11	8-8	9-8	8-8	7-8	8-8	7-11	7-0	7-8	7-0	6-2	
		No.2	2x4	11-1	10-2	8-11	9-9	8-11	7-10	8-11	8-1	7-2	7-10	7-2	6-3
			2x6	17-3	15-8	13-9	15-1	13-9	12-1	13-9	12-7	11-0	12-1	11-0	9-8