

Standard Wood Header and Jamb Detail Guidelines

The primary structural requirements for a garage door are adequate support to sustain the weight of the door, track and spring assemblies; adequate resistance to wind load forces; and adequate resistance to vibration caused by door operation. The Door and Access Systems Manufacturers Association (DASMA) has created a specification sheet for wood header and jambs used to frame garage door openings in residential building structures. While the members of DASMA do not endorse any particular type of building material construction, they are concerned that adequate building frame structural requirements be met and have noted that wood framing historically has been used commonly in residential construction.

The specifications should be useful as follows:

- Architect/Engineer/Specifier – when preparing house plans and specifications, or when the situation requires an analysis of the building frame.
- Builders/Contractors – when constructing or renovating a structure, in the absence of an A/E/S
- Distributors – have on hand to make available to dealers
- Dealers – have available for new or retrofitted door installations
- Manufacturers – have data prepared for specific products, incorporate into installation instructions, where feasible, and provide for capability to analyze on a case specific basis
- Consumers – use as part of installation instructions accompanying door packages sold through retail businesses.

The specification sheet is intended to provide guidance:

- for noting the structural condition of an existing building framing system,
- for adhering to minimum structural member guidelines, where noted, and
- for noting construction conditions that would affect installation (where required to be flush, level, plumb, and square; appropriate dimensions; presence of wall coverings; etc.).

Garage door manufacturers are at the heart of the process of preparing and using the specification sheet. They can provide the necessary information on a per product basis, or on a case specific basis, if required. They would then make available the information to the other parties involved. It is essential that all parties associated with garage door applications recognize the contribution of the framing system, including appropriate connections, to the structural integrity of a garage door system, and the importance of a framing system that is appropriately dimensioned to allow for adequate installation and operation.

If there are any questions concerning the structural integrity of a building framing system, the members of DASMA strongly advise that only a trained door systems technician or a qualified design professional be contacted to assess the situation with the local building official being the sole and final determiner of the suitability of a particular application from a code enforcement standpoint.

Wood Header and Jamb Detail Guidelines for Garage Door Openings

1. New Spring Pad, Jamb and Header material
 - a) Southern Pine or better structural species
 - b) Shall be grade 2 or better
 - c) Shall be free of cracks, splits and knots
2. Existing Spring Pad, Jamb and Header material
 - a) Check for wood type
 - b) Check method of attachment to building frame
 - c) Check if wood is solid
 - d) Check if wood is decayed
3. Torsion Spring Pad – Shall be flush with inside surface of Header
4. Jambs
 - a) Recommended minimum size is 2 x 6
 - b) Shall be plumb, square and flush with Header
 - c) Shall extend from the floor to the ceiling or to the manufacturer's recommended height

Note: Jambs shall extend below concrete stem walls to within ½ inch (12.7 mm) of grade floor.

5. Header
 - a) Recommended minimum size is 2 x 8
 - b) Shall be level, square and flush with Jambs
6. Attachment to Building Frame
 - a) Shall provide adequate support to sustain the weight of the door, track and spring assemblies
 - b) Shall provide adequate support to sustain the stored energy in a spring assembly
 - c) Shall provide adequate resistance to wind load forces
 - d) Shall provide adequate resistance to vibration caused by door operation