Chapter 25: Sliding Door Opening Framing

Most Common Mistakes:

1. Locating header at incorrect height.
2. Failure to install siding backing.
3. Neglecting to install track board, at wrong height, or cut to incorrect length.
4. Sliding door jambs omitted or incorrectly installed.

CAUTION If wall has a sliding door – entire door assembly, as well as all door trims, must be installed prior to any siding.

Sliding Door Header

On Sidewalls

In most cases there will be a 2x8 across door opening "hole" (very large doors may require larger headers).

If building has *no overhangs* and sidewall sliding door is *one foot less than eave height*, sliding door header will **replace eave strut** .

For sliding doors *other than replacing an eave strut*, a 2x6 sliding door header will be added in adjacent bay, in *direction sliding door slides.* These two headers will be flush on upper edges.

For bi-parting (split) sliding doors, 2x6 sliding door header(s) will be added on *both sides* of sliding door opening.

Important~ Remember to bevel cut any sliding door header top replacing an eave strut by "Eave strut Hold Down" distance, as specified in **Chapter 12, Table 12-1**.

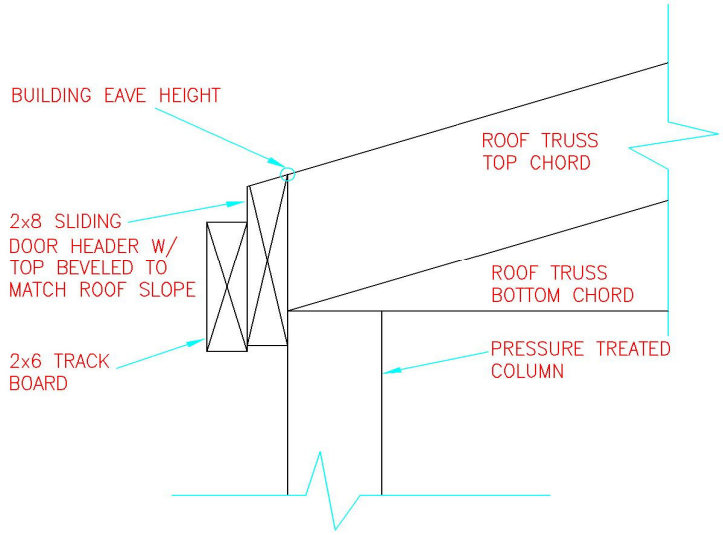

Figure 25-1: Bevel Cut Sidewall Sliding Door Header

Nail sliding door header to each column, “crowned” up, with six 10d common nails each end.

In all other height circumstances, sliding door header will nail to wall column faces same as an exterior (flat or barn style) girt does.

To determine sliding door header TOP height, add 1’ to sliding door *call out height*. (For example: 7’ tall sliding door = 8’ header top). **See Figure 25-2**

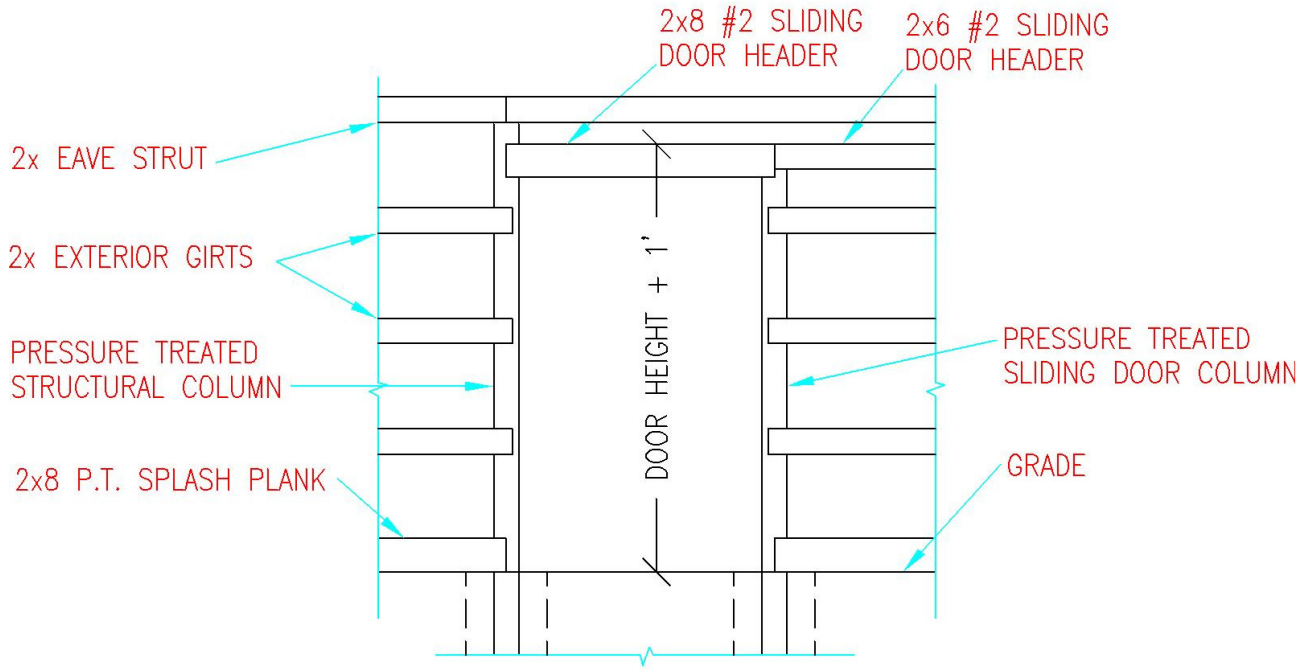

Figure 25-2: Sliding Door Header Height

CAUTION Sliding door header top is measured from splash plank bottom (grade).

Endwall Sliding Doors

If endwall is trussed, in either of these cases, sliding door header will be applied to truss face: with NO endwall roof overhang, and *endwall sliding door height is one foot less than eave height*, or with an endwall roof overhang, and *endwall sliding door height is 18” less than eave height*.

Otherwise, endwall sliding door header will be installed same as sidewall sliding door headers.

Sliding Door Jambs

Jambs for sliding doors are 2x3, this always requires ripping a 2x6 lengthwise.

FOR TIGHTER SEALING SLIDING DOORS: Rather than ripping a 2x6 (as provided) for jamb, use 2x4 ripped to 3”. In no circumstance should full width (3-1/2”) 2x4 be used for a jamb.

Cut one 2x6 to length for each sliding door (or bi-parting door pair) at a length equal to distance from splash plank top to 2x8 sliding door header bottom. This is typically about 2-1/4" less than sliding door *call out height*.

Measure 2-3/4" to 2x6 center (on wide 5-1/2" face) and snap a chalk line from end-to-end. Using a circular saw cut along chalk line.
Prior to jamb installation, trim off any "exterior" (flat) girts attached to columns on each side of sliding door opening, 1-1/2" from opening edge.

With bookshelf girts, install screw nailing blocks, aligned with bookshelf girts, onto windward column face, holding back 1-1/2" from opening edge. **Figure 25-3**

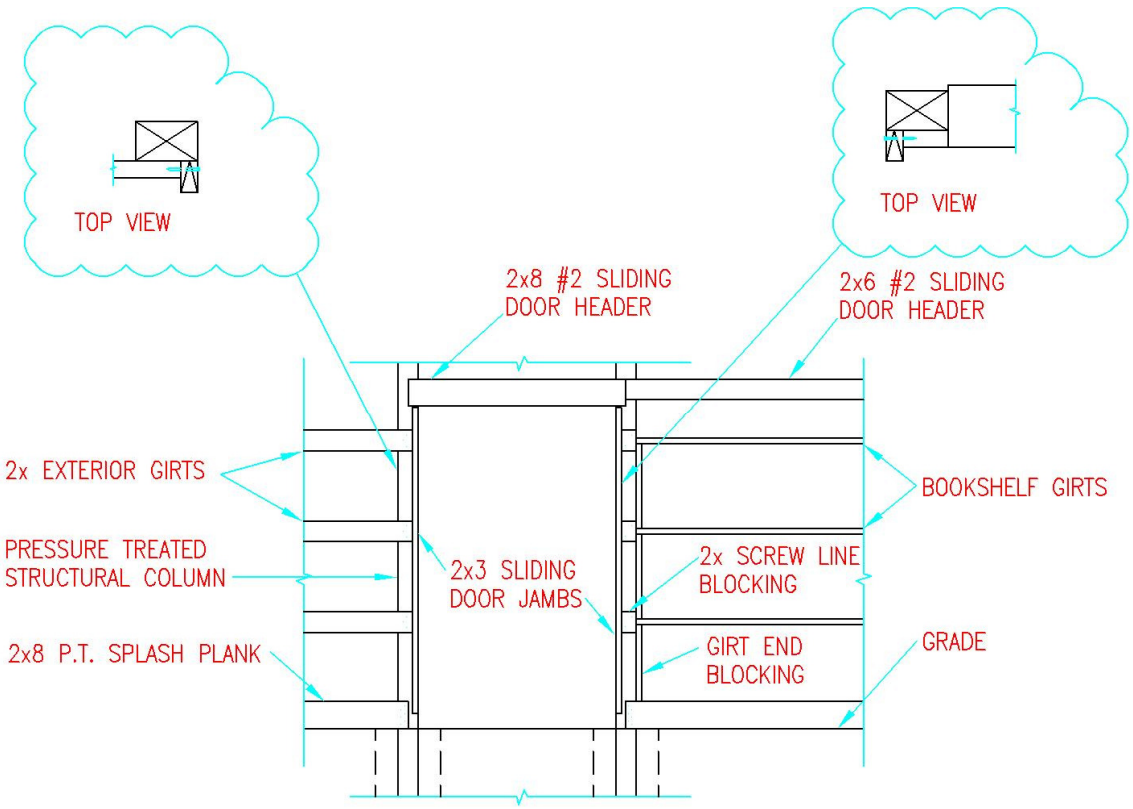

Figure 25-3: Sliding Door with Bookshelf Girts

Place 2x3 jamb vertical, with ripped edge against column outside face. Jamb top end butts into previously installed sliding door header. Jamb bottom end contacts with splash plank or is 4" above grade. Jamb 2-3/4" face away from girted wall is flush with sliding door opening inside face.

Nail through jamb face closest to opening into trimmed girt ends (or screw line blocking), with (2) 10d commons at each location. Toe nails may be added, for further stability.


1-1/2" jamb face away from column, will project from column slightly less than track board (approx. 2-3/4" vs. 3").

When sliding door is closed, jamb will be covered by door. Steel trim will NOT cover 1-1/2" jamb face away from column, or face flush with door column.

If trim was used, it would be damaged by door sliding across, as well as posing a potential safety hazard to people or animals who could be cut by exposed inside edge.

Sliding Door Siding Backing Below 2x6 Header

2x4 siding backing installs on column faces like an **exterior** (flat or barn style) girt.
See Figure 25-4

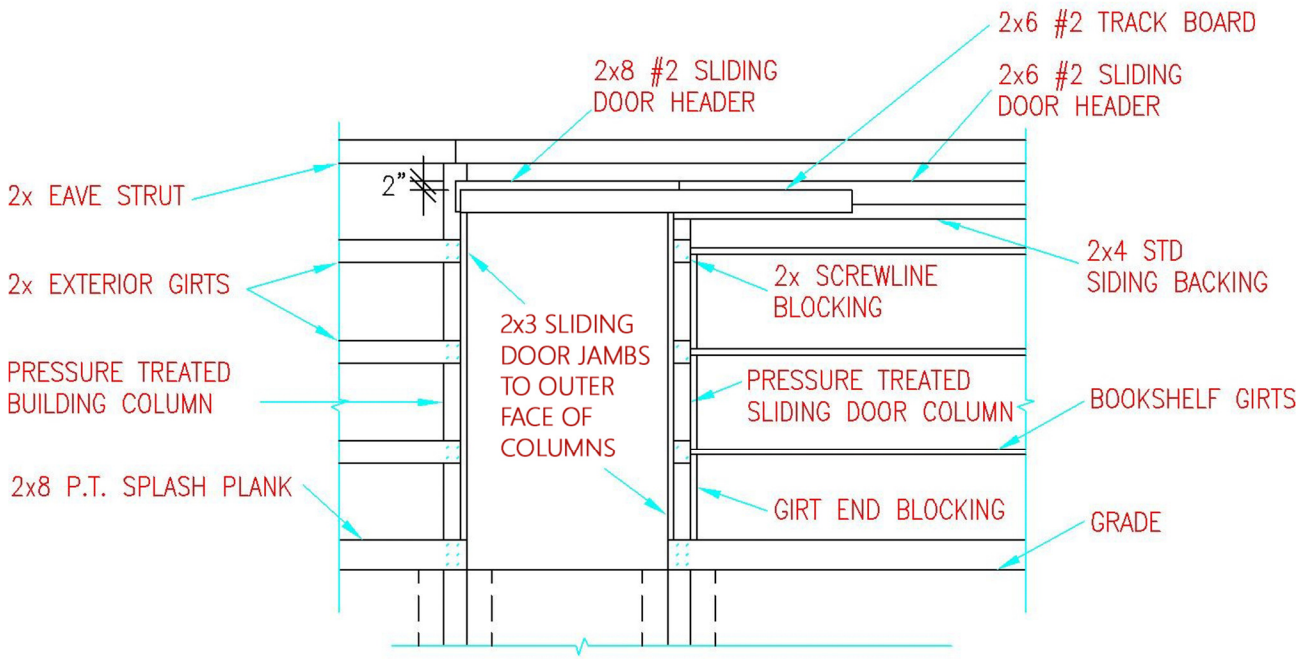

Figure 25-4: Sliding Door Siding Backing

Sliding Door Track Board

Sliding door track board is a 2x6. Its length totals 2x sliding door "call out" **width**, less 2-1/2".

Example: If sliding door "call out" width equals 12', multiply by 2 and subtract 2-1/2".

(2' x 12' = 24) – (less) 2-1/2" = 23' 9-1/2"

EXCEPTION!: Track board stops a varying distance from any corner column outside edge, depending upon steel vendor. For McElroy and Metal Sales 3-5/8"; ABC 3-3/4"; Central States 3-7/8"; Union Corrugating 4"; Fabral 4-1/8". This allows for corner trim to pass by track board ends, without need for cutting.

Track board will be nailed wide face to wide face on both sliding door headers.
See Figure 25-5

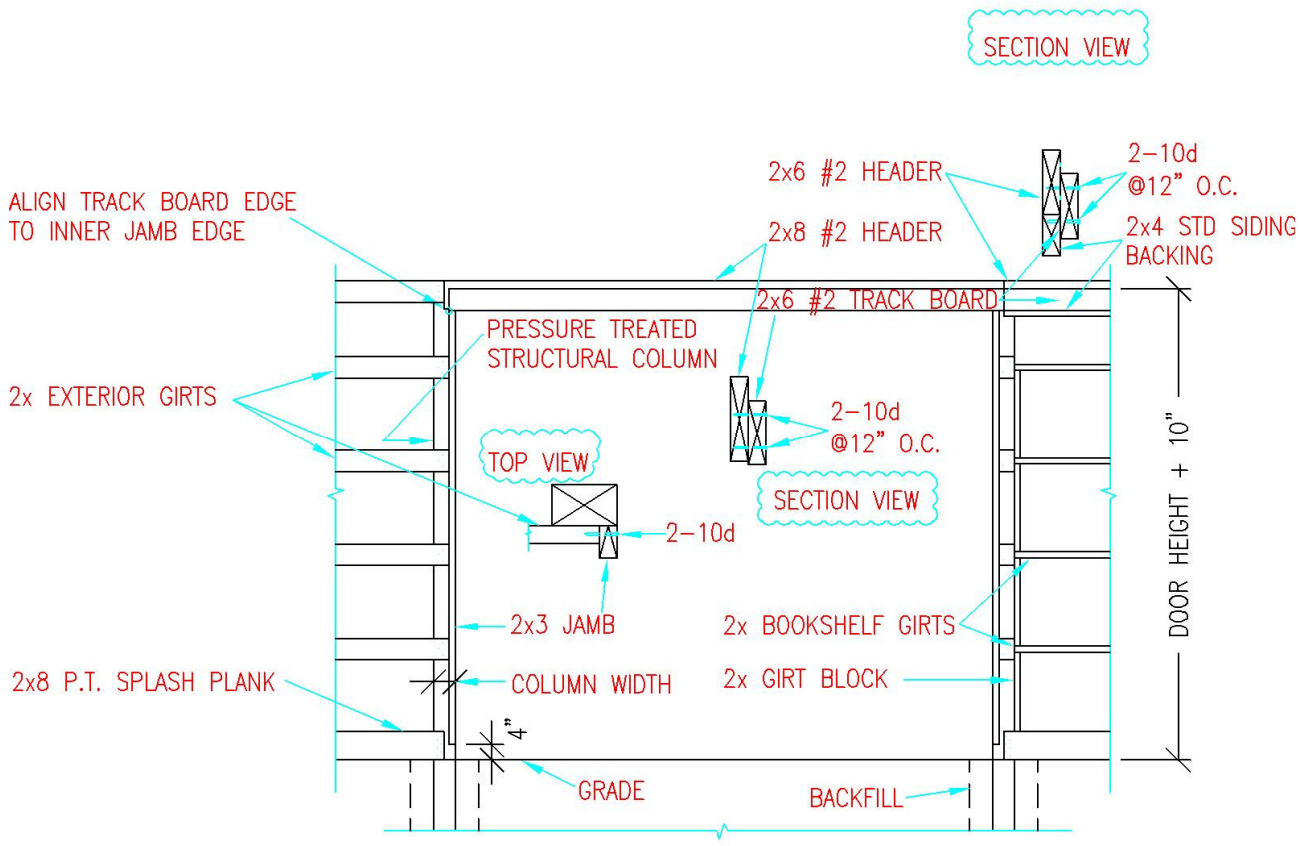

Figure 25-5: Sliding Door Track Board

Track board top is sliding door call out height **PLUS 10"** above splash plank bottom (grade).

Example: If sliding door call out height is 14', track board top edge will be 14'10" above splash plank *bottom*.

Install track board level.

If sliding door opens from left to right (as in **Figure 25-5**), track board left end will install flush with left sliding door jamb left side (reverse all directions for doors sliding from right to left). Nail track board to sliding door header with two (2) 10d commons at 12" o.c. Nail track board to siding backing with a 10d common at 12" o.c.