

## Stagger nails properly to prevent splitting

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Some people get confused about how nails are supposed to be staggered, when there is such a requirement, for example per footnotes e and f of Table 2306.4.1 2003 International Building Code. The figures below demonstrates what staggering is and why it is important. There is no minimum spacing to qualify as stagger, but a good target is about 3/8 inch or more.

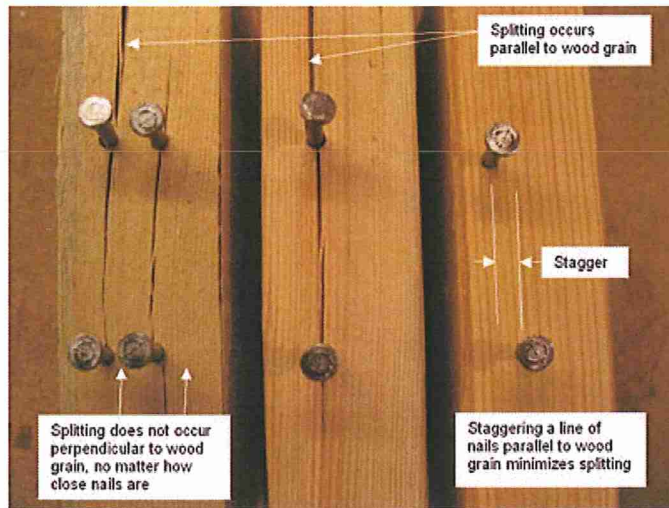
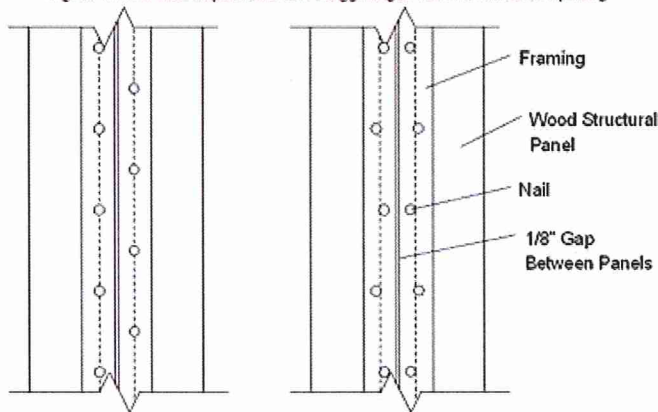


Figure 1. How wood splits and how staggering is used to minimize splitting



Nailing not staggered      Nailing staggered

Figure 2. What is staggered nailing and what is not

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