

Introduction: The Extended Plate & Beam Wall System

August 2016

SYSTEM OVERVIEW

Extended Plate and Beam (EP&B) is an advanced wall system developed by Home Innovation Research Labs. EP&B provides a high-performing wall at reasonable cost and effort that meets or exceeds the prescriptive insulation requirements of the IECC for all U.S. climate zones.

EP&B is based on tried-and-true lumber construction methodologies, integrating rigid foam sheathing with standard framing practices into a system that preserves many conventional construction features and minimizes builder risk. The Extended Plate and Beam (EP&B) wall system is composed of familiar wall materials but in a different configuration:

- 2x4 studs, with top and bottom plate extensions of 2x6
- Continuous insulation exterior to the wall cavity, interior to the WSP
 - More than 95% of the wall area free of thermal bridging
 - Common methods and materials for framing, air sealing, insulation, drainage plane and siding attachment
 - Double rim board (beam) that is also a header

- The bottom plate is one dimension larger than the studs.
- The top plates are one dimension larger than the studs.
- There is a layer of rigid insulation in the two-inch pocket.

EP&B ADVANTAGES

The rigid foam layer keeps cavities warmer to improve moisture performance, and keeps wall surfaces warmer to increase comfort

EP&B walls typically cost the same as or LESS THAN an IECC R-13+10 c.i. prescriptive wall — that can translate to \$100's per house

Because the OSB and framing protect the foam layer, EP&B is a good candidate for wall panelization

EP&B walls meet or exceed the 2015 IECC prescriptive energy requirements of every U.S. Climate Zone

EP&B CONSTRUCTION SUMMARY

EP&B walls cost the same or less than IECC code compliant R-13+10 walls DBL. 2x6 TOP PLATE -2x4 CRIPPLE (TOE NAIL) 2" RIGID FOAM INSULATION 1 1/2" SINGLE ENGINEERED WOOD HEADER (2nd FL. 5' - 7' WIDE) WINDOW OPENING 2x4 STUDS 2x6 BOTTOM PLATE 7/16" OSB SHEATHING 2" RIGID FOAM INSULATION 7/16" OSB SHEATHING 1" RIGID FOAM INSULATION DBL. 1 1/8" RIM JOIST-(RIM HEADER DESIGN AT OPENINGS BELOW: REQUIRED) **INSTALL FLOOR JOIST HANGERS** -DBL, 2x6 TOP PLATE 2x6 DOOR BUCKS (or 2x4 WINDOW BUCKS)

EP&B 2-Story Wall Detail (First Floor Bottom Plate Detail Not Shown)

EP&B Connection Schedule (Use IRC Table R602.3(1) for all other) Note: Staples are Not an Acceptable Substitute for Nails

Connection	Nails	Schedule
Perimeter (edge) of Wood Sheathing	3.5 in. x 0.131 in.	3 in. o.c.
Field of Wood Sheathing	3.5 in. x 0.131 in.	6 in. o.c.
Corner studs in contact with each other	3 in. x 0.131 in.	12 in. o.c.
Corners: WSP from both intersecting walls to a common 2x framing member	2.5 in. x 0.131 in.	6 in. o.c.
Corner studs separated by up to 2 in. of rigid foam, 2 options	5 in. x 0.135 in.	6 in. o.c.
	6 in. x 0.190 in. SIP screws	12 in. o.c.



- Siding
- **Weather Resistive Barrier** 2.
- Framing/insulation
- **Wood sheathing**
- **Drywall**
- Extended plates make room for a 2-in. layer of rigid foam insulation between framing and sheathing
- Windows are framed with 2x4's; a 1x6 sill can be added for additional support if desired
- Doors are framed with either 2x4's (typical) or 2x6's (sliders or heavy-duty)
- Structural wood sheathing is attached directly to the extended plates, for shear resistance
- Double rim provides load transfer between floors
- Double rim can act as a header for the openings below (joist hangers required)

For complete installation recommendations download a PDF of the EP&B Construction Guide at www.HomeInnovation.com/EPBBuildersGuide

EP&B is an innovative, performance-tested, nonproprietary wall system that can be supplied by

Prescriptive requirements for the EP&B wall system will be submitted for inclusion into building codes soon. The use of the EP&B wall system in a specific project must be approved by the design professional for that project. The specifications for the EP&B wall system provided in this Guide are intended for use consistent with the scope of the International Residential Code (IRC), and are not approved for high-seismic or high-wind areas.