



# I-JOIST BLOCKING

I-joists are often installed with blocking, a rectangular piece of engineered wood or a section of I-joist that is placed between adjacent joists at various locations. For these applications blocking has three major functions:

1. To provide lateral support to the floor joists – to prevent them from physically “rolling over” due to lateral loads. This is accomplished by the shape and stiffness of the blocking panel.
2. To provide a means of transferring shear loads from the walls above to the floor/foundation below. This is accomplished by nailing into the top and bottom flanges.

3. To provide a means of transferring vertical loads from the wall above to the foundation/floor below. The blocking is used in bearing to accomplish this.

**Blocking materials:** Blocking panels are normally site-fabricated out of engineered wood materials on hand. Sections of APA Rated I-joist, APA Rated Rim Board or I-joist-compatible LVL may be used for blocking. It is essential that engineered wood materials be used because the shrinkage anticipated with the use of sawn lumber would make the blocking unable to perform the vertical load-

transfer function and could seriously impede its ability to transfer shear loads.

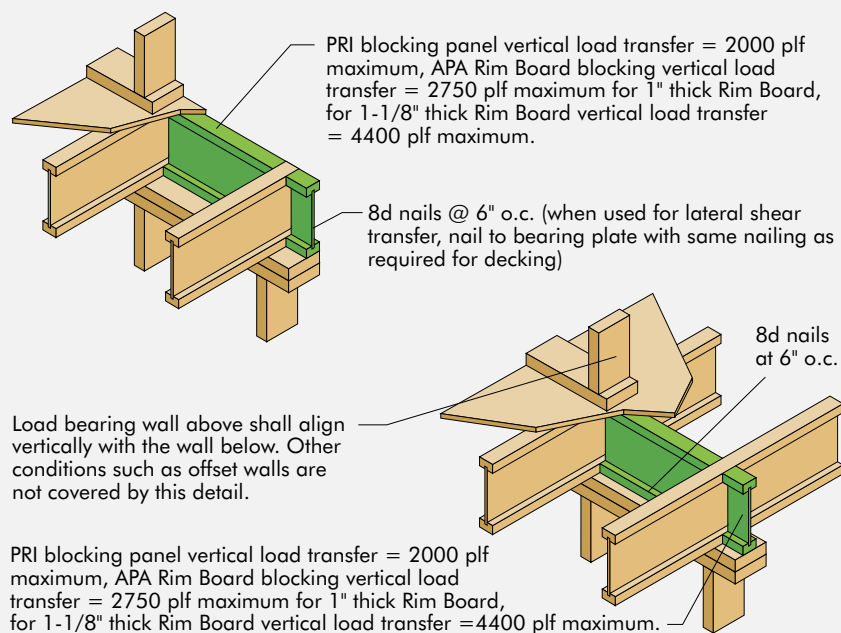
Fabricate the blocking panels from engineered wood products of I-joist-compatible sizes and cut to fit tightly between the floor joists.

### Recommendations for I-joists designed in accordance with APA Standard PRI-400:

1. Blocking panels are required at each end of floor joists not otherwise restrained from overturning by a band joist or rim board.
2. Blocking panels are required between floor joists supporting load-bearing walls running perpendicular to the joists.
3. Blocking panels are required between floor joists at the interior support adjacent to a nonload-bearing cantilever in the floor system.
4. For a load-bearing cantilever, blocking panels are required between floor joists at the exterior support adjacent to the cantilever, as well as for 4 feet along the exterior support on either side of the cantilevered joists.
5. Install blocking panels in accordance with Figure 1.

FIGURE 1

### BLOCKING PANEL INSTALLATION DETAILS



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