

Specifying the Depth of Floor and Ceiling Joists

Reference Number: **KB-00049**

Last Modified: **November 22, 2024**

The information in this article applies to:



QUESTION

How do I set the joist depth for one particular room in my design?



ANSWER

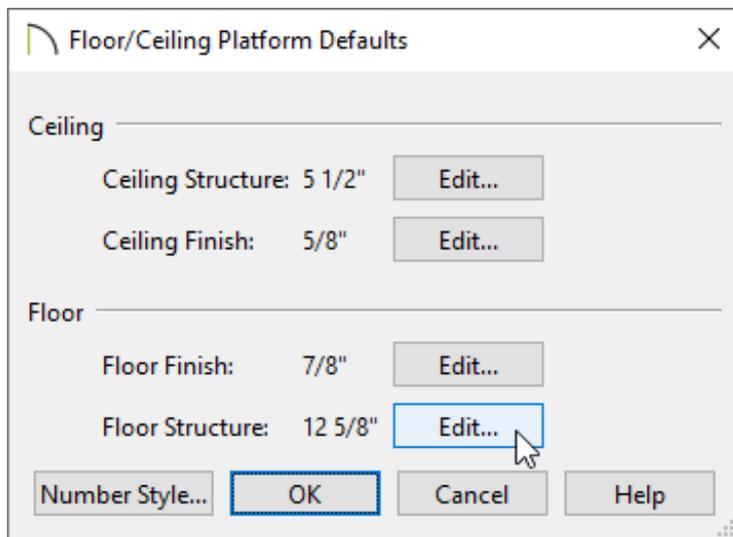
The joist depth can be specified for an entire plan, on a floor-by-floor basis, on a room-by-room basis, or for an individual joist. However, resizing an individual joist in this manner will not affect the space allotted for it in the floor or ceiling platform that it is located within.

Note: It is recommended that you specify all structural information, including floor and ceiling heights and platform thicknesses, before you build a roof or generate framing. It's also important to generate a foundation prior to generating floor framing for your first floor.

- [Specifying the joist depth for an entire plan](#)
- [Specifying the joist depth for a single floor](#)
- [Specifying the joist depth for an individual room](#)
- [Specifying the depth of an individual joist](#)

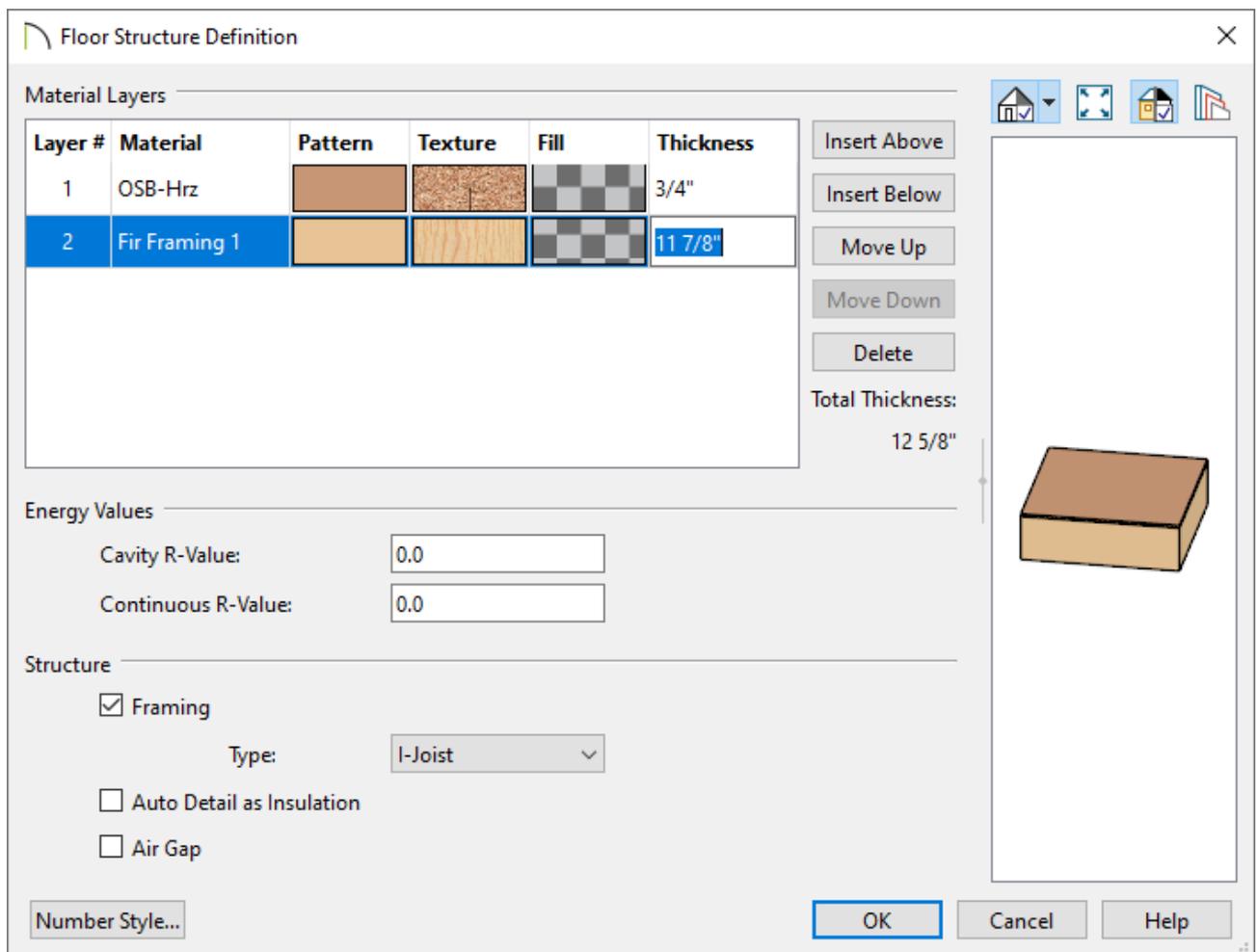
To specify joist depth for an entire plan

1. Select **Edit > Default Settings**  from the menu, expand the **Floors and Rooms** category, select **Floor/Ceiling Platform**, then click **Edit**.
2. In the **Floor/Ceiling Platform Defaults** dialog that opens, click **Edit** next to Floor Structure or Ceiling Structure.



3. In the **Floor/Ceiling Structure Definition** dialog that displays, change the **Thickness** of the framing layer to your desired value, then click **OK**.

In most cases, Layer #2 is the framing layer. Framing layers typically have a framing material applied, and will have the Framing box checked under the Structure section at bottom of the dialog.



4. Click **OK** and **Done** to close the remaining dialogs.
5. Now, when you generate floor and/or ceiling framing, the joists will have the depth specified.

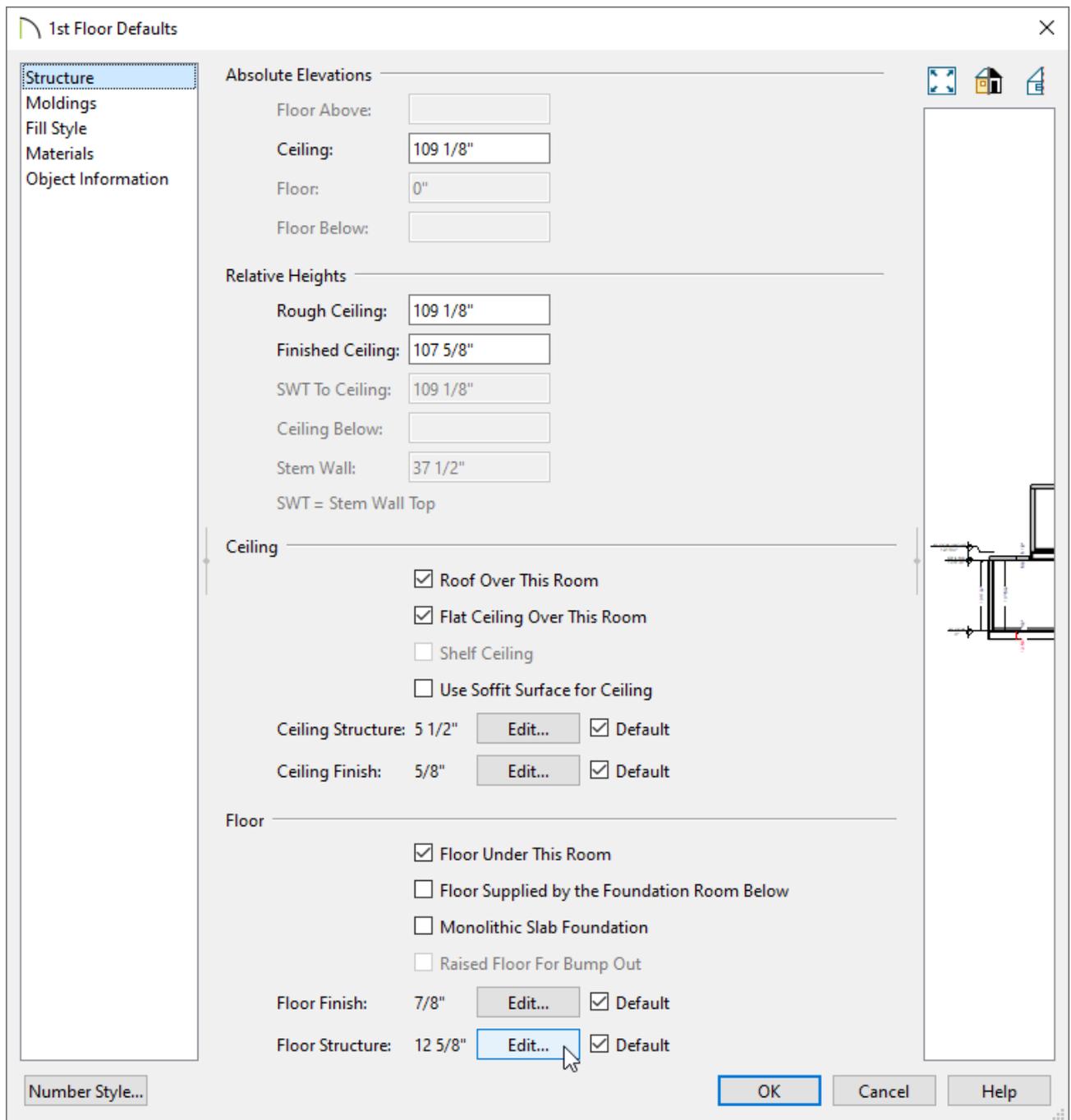
To specify joist depth for a single floor

1. Select **Edit> Default Settings**  from the menu, expand the **Floors and Rooms** category, expand the **Floor Levels** category, select the floor level that you want to adjust, then click **Edit**.

In this example, the 1st Floor is selected for editing.

Navigate to Build> Floor> Build New Floor to create a additional floor levels in your design. When creating new floors, a Floor Defaults dialog will display where the Floor Structure can be edited to your liking before the floor is established.

2. On the **STRUCTURE** panel of the **Floor Defaults** dialog that displays, click **Edit** next to Floor Structure or Ceiling Structure.



3. In the **Floor/Ceiling Structure Definition** dialog that displays, change the **Thickness** of the framing layer to your desired value, then click **OK**.

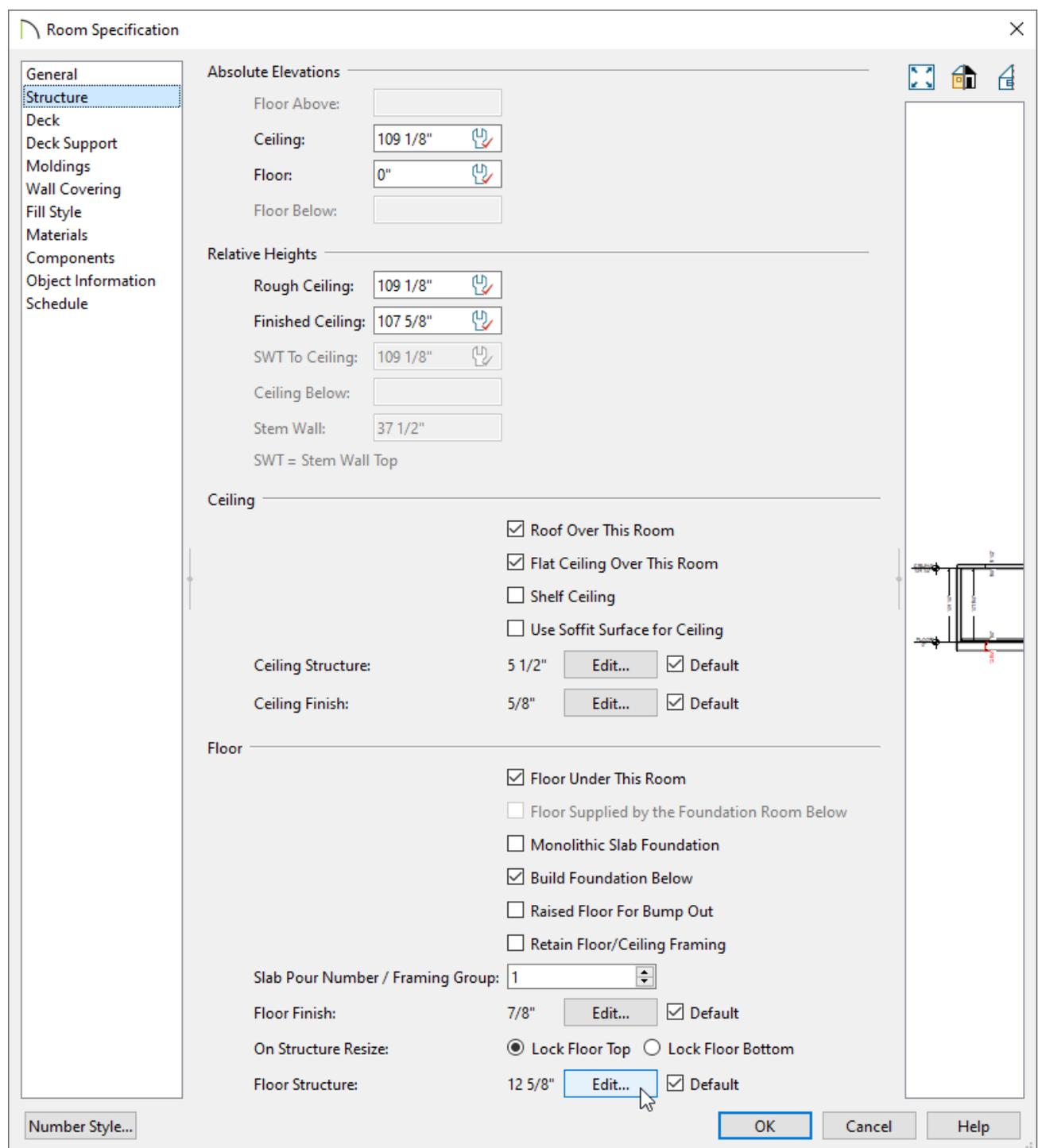
In most cases, Layer #2 is the framing layer. Framing layers typically have a framing material applied, and will have the Framing box checked under the Structure section at bottom of the dialog.

4. Click **OK** and **Done** to close the remaining dialogs.
5. Now, when you build or rebuild framing for the floor(s) that you modified, the joists

will have the depth that you specified.

To specify joist depth for an individual room

1. Using the **Select Objects**  tool, click in an empty space in a room to select it, then click the **Open Object**  edit button.
2. On the **STRUCTURE** panel of the **Room Specification** dialog that displays, click **Edit** next to Floor Structure or Ceiling Structure.



3. In the **Floor/Ceiling Structure Definition** dialog that displays, change the **Thickness** of the framing layer to your desired value, then click **OK**.

In most cases, Layer #2 is the framing layer. Framing layers typically have a framing material applied, and will have the Framing box checked under the Structure section at bottom of the dialog.

4. Click **OK**.
5. Now, when you build or rebuild framing for the current floor, the joists in this room will have the depth that you specified rather than the default depth.

To specify the depth of an individual joist

When a joist is generated automatically or drawn manually, it's initial depth will be based on the default joist depth for the current floor, or the depth specified for an individual room on that floor. Once a joist is created, you can edit its depth in the Framing Specification (Floor/Ceiling Joist) dialog. Bear in mind, though, that it may not fit within the platform that it was placed in.

1. Using the **Select Objects**  tool, click on a joist to select it, then click the **Open Object**  edit button.
2. On the **GENERAL** panel of the **Framing Specification (Floor/Ceiling Joist)** dialog:

Framing Specification (Floor Joist)

General

- End Profile
- Line Style
- Fill Style
- Materials
- Label
- Components
- Object Information
- Schedule

Depth and Height

Raise/Lower: 0" Apply

Lock Top Height: -3/4"

Lock Bottom Height: -12 5/8"

Lock Depth: 11 7/8"

Options

Width: 2 1/2" Match Depth

Role: Use Automatic (Floor Joist) ▾

Type: I-Joist ▾

Treated

Length and Angle

Length: 192 3/4"

Angle: -90.0°

Lock: Start Center End

- Ensure that the **Raise/Lower** box is unchecked.
- Move the Lock radio button to either **Lock Top Height** or **Lock Bottom Height**, depending on which end of the joist you want to lock.
- Specify the desired depth value in the **Lock Depth** field.
- Click **OK**.

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Related Articles

- [Changing Joist Directions \(/support/article/KB-02932/changing-joist-directions.html\)](/support/article/KB-02932/changing-joist-directions.html)
- [Creating and Using a Plan Template \(/support/article/KB-00463/creating-and-using-a-plan-template.html\)](/support/article/KB-00463/creating-and-using-a-plan-template.html)



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