Chief Architect®

Architectural Home Design Software

Controlling Door and Window Framing

Reference Number: **KB-00985**

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The information in this article applies to:

PREMIER

QUESTION

The project that I'm working on has custom doors and windows of varying sizes, including a number of mulled units. How do I control the framing for these wall openings?

ANSWER

There are a variety of ways to control how doors and windows are framed in Chief Architect. You can model the wall framing required for nearly any wall opening:
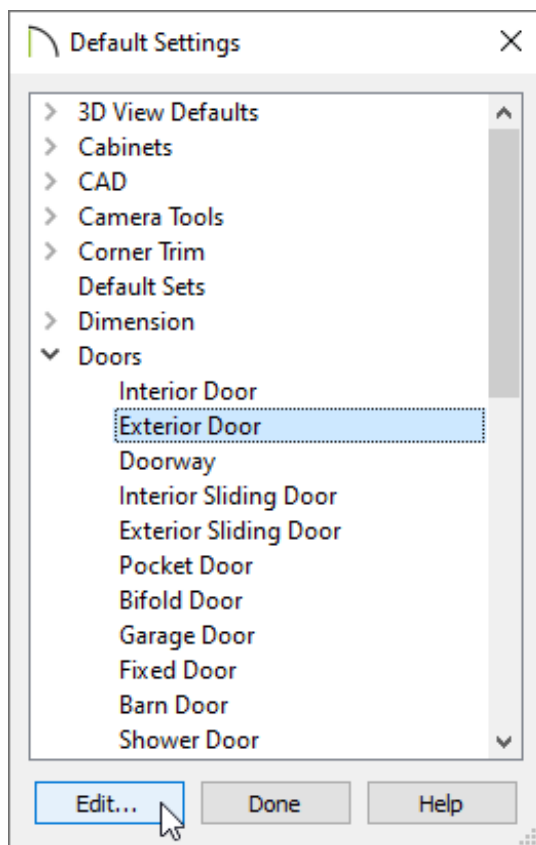
- Using door, window, and framing defaults.
- Using specifications for individual doors and windows.
- By manually editing door and window framing.

To set door and window framing defaults

Door and window framing defaults are set in two places: on the Framing panel of the Door and Window Defaults dialogs and on the Openings panel of the Framing Defaults dialog.

As with other default settings, it is wise to set your door and window framing defaults to the values that will be used most often as early as possible in the design process.

1. First, **Open** 📁 the plan in which you would like to control door and window framing, or start a **New Plan** 📄.

2. Navigate to **Edit> Default Settings** 🔧 from the menu.

3. In the **Default Settings** dialog that displays, expand the **Doors** category, select **Exterior Door**, then click **Edit**.

4. On the ROUGH OPENING* panel of the **Exterior Door Defaults** dialog:

   *Applies to X14 and newer program versions. Rough opening properties for X13 and prior versions can be specified on the FRAMING panel, which is discussed in the next step.

Exterior Door Defaults

General
Options
Casing
Lintel
Lites
Jamb
Arch
Hardware
Shutters
Opening Indicators
Rough Opening
Framing
Energy Values
Layer
Materials
Label
Components
Object Information
Schedule

Rough Opening

Each Side: 1"

Top: 1 1/4"

Bottom: 1 3/4"

Add for Concrete Cutout

Each Side: 0"

☑ Show in Plan

- ○ Set the amount to add to **Each Side**, the **Top**, and the **Bottom** for the door's framed rough opening.

- ○ Under **Add for Concrete Cutout**, specify the amount to add to **Each Side** of the door opening when the upper part of the door is in a framed wall and the lower part is located in a concrete or masonry wall, stem wall, or garage curb.

- ○ Uncheck **Show in Plan** to suppress the display of the concrete cutout in plan views. A concrete cutout will only display in plan views if it is located in a garage curb.

5. On the FRAMING panel of the **Exterior Door Defaults** dialog:

- Specify the Header **Type**, **Thickness**, **Count**, **Depth**, and **Spacing**.

  Keep "Calculate from Width" checked if you want the Header depth determined by the width of the door. The Calculate from Width settings are located in the Framing Defaults, which are discussed later.

  When "Evenly Spaced" is checked, the boards that comprise the header are evenly spaced within the wall's framing layer. Uncheck this box to specify the spacing of the header boards. This option is only available in X13 and newer program versions.

- Check **Box Header** if you would like to create a box header above your exterior doors.

- Specify the **Header Placement**. This is only available in X13 and newer program versions.

- Specify the **Trimmer Count** and the **King Stud Count**. The **King Stud Count** is only available in X14 and newer program versions.

- Specify the **Sill** properties.

- In X13 and prior versions, make your changes to the **Rough Opening** and **Add for Concrete Cutout**.

- Specify any other settings, then click **OK** to apply your settings.

  > **Note:** For more information on the various options listed here, select the Help button at the bottom of the dialog to open your program's documentation.

6. Remaining in the **Default Settings** dialog, select the **Framing** option from the list, then click the **Edit** button.

7. On the OPENINGS panel of the **Framing Defaults** dialog that displays, you can specify up to four different sizes of headers for wall openings of different widths.

8. When you are finished, click **OK**, then click **Done** to close the dialogs.
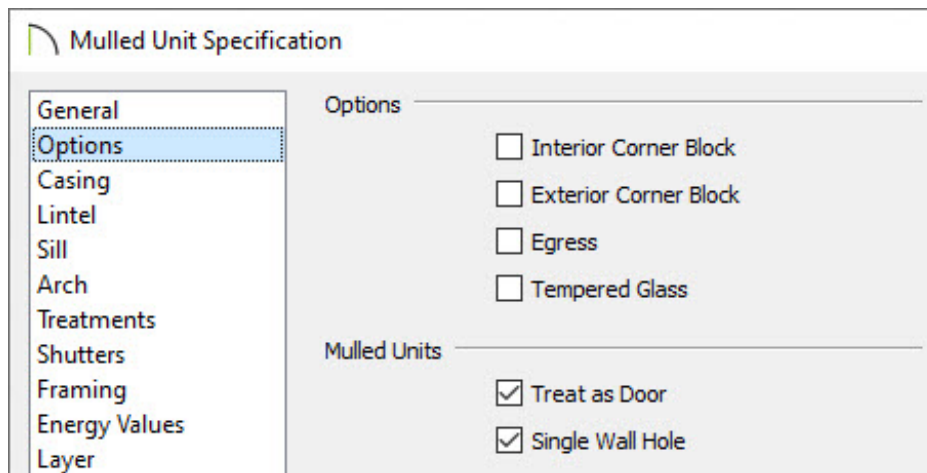
To specify the framing for an individual door or window

You can specify unique values for individual doors and windows in their specification dialogs. It's best to do this before wall framing is built; if these values are changed after wall framing is generated, you will need to generate wall framing again unless you have selected the Automatically Build Wall Framing option.

1. Select a door or window and click the **Open Object** ⊓ edit button.

2. On the FRAMING panel of the **Door** or **Window Specification** dialog, specify your desired values, then click **OK**.

   In X14 or newer versions, the **Rough Opening** and **Add for Concrete Cutout** can be made on the ROUGH OPENING panel.

3. If the selected object is a mulled unit composed of multiple windows and/or doors that have been blocked together, you can also specify whether the unit is framed using a single opening or separate openings for each door or window on the OPTIONS panel.

- o Check **Treat as Door** to include the unit in the "Doors" category of the Materials List and in the "Mulled Door Units" Auto Schedule Category. This option is only available when the selected unit contains a door.

- o Uncheck **Single Wall Hole** to produce individually framed wall openings for each unit in a mulled unit. When this box is checked, a single wall opening with a header for the entire unit is produced.

To manually edit door and window framing

Once automatic wall framing has been generated, you can easily edit these framing members if needed. Plates, sills, headers, trimmers and cripples can be selected in 3D views, cross section/elevation views, and in Wall Details, while studs can be selected and edited in any view. Please see the "Manually Editing Wall Framing" and "General Framing Guidelines" articles in the Related Articles section to learn more.

Related Articles

 Creating a Cutout for Doors in Concrete Walls (/support/article/KB-00965/creating-a-cutout-for-doors-in-concrete-walls.html)

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