

Creating Steel Wall Framing

Reference Number: **KB-00914**

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The information in this article applies to:



QUESTION

My project calls for steel wall framing, but I do not see this option in the Build Framing dialog. How do I generate steel studs?




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ANSWER

Unlike other framing materials, wall framing is specified for each wall type in the Wall Type Definitions dialog. To create steel wall framing, you need to create a custom wall type that uses a steel wall framing material.

To specify steel wall framing

1. Select **Build> Wall> Define Wall Types**  from the menu.
2. In the **Wall Type Definitions** dialog, click on the **Copy** button to create a copy of the wall type.
3. Click on **Rename** to change the name of the copied wall type to something descriptive. In this example we renamed it to "Steel Frame 24" OC Siding-6".
4. On the wall type's framing layer, select either the Material, Pattern or Texture preview.

Make sure that the Main Layer is selected for the framing layer of the wall. If the wall is not a framed type, choose the structural layer.

While selecting another layer is possible and may be preferable in certain rare situations, in most cases you will encounter problems with wall connections and framing.

Wall Type Definitions

Steel Frame 24" OC Siding-6

New Copy Rename Delete Delete All Unused

Wall Layers

Layer #	Line Color	Line Style	Weight	Material	Pattern	Texture	Fill	Thickness	Ins
Exterior Layers									
1			1	Lap Siding				1/2"	
2			1	Housewrap		Chief W		0"	
3			1	OSB-Hrz				7/16"	
Main Layers									
4			35	Fir Stud 24" OC				5 1/2"	✓
Interior Layers									
5			35	Drywall		No Texture		1/2"	
6			1						

Insert Above
Insert Below
Move Up
Move Down
Delete

Total Thickness:
6 15/16"


- In the **Select Material** Dialog, browse to **Materials> Framing** and choose a steel stud material.
 - For example, choose Steel Stud 16" OC to produce studs spaced at 16" on center, or choose Steel Stud 24" OC to produce studs spaced at 24" on center.
 - If you need a custom spacing interval, you can create a custom framing material. It is important to change the custom material's name so it begins with the word "Steel".

Visit the [Related Articles](#) section for more information on creating custom framing materials.

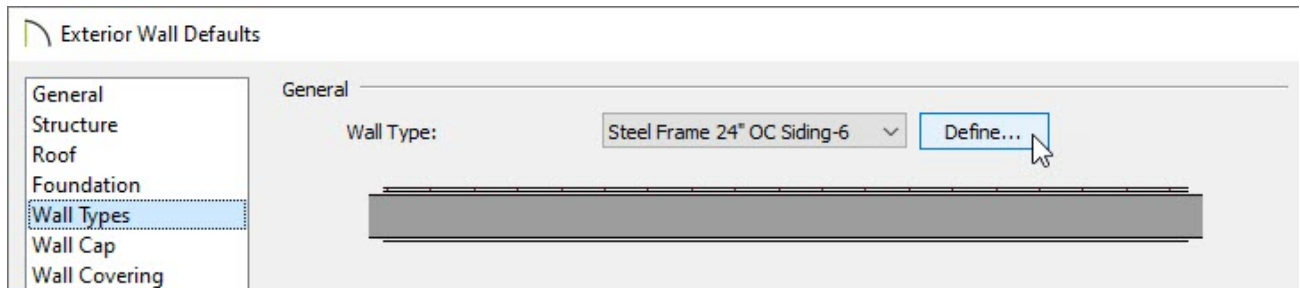
- Click **OK** to return to the **Wall Type Definitions** dialog, then click **OK** to close this dialog as well.

To use steel framed walls in your plan

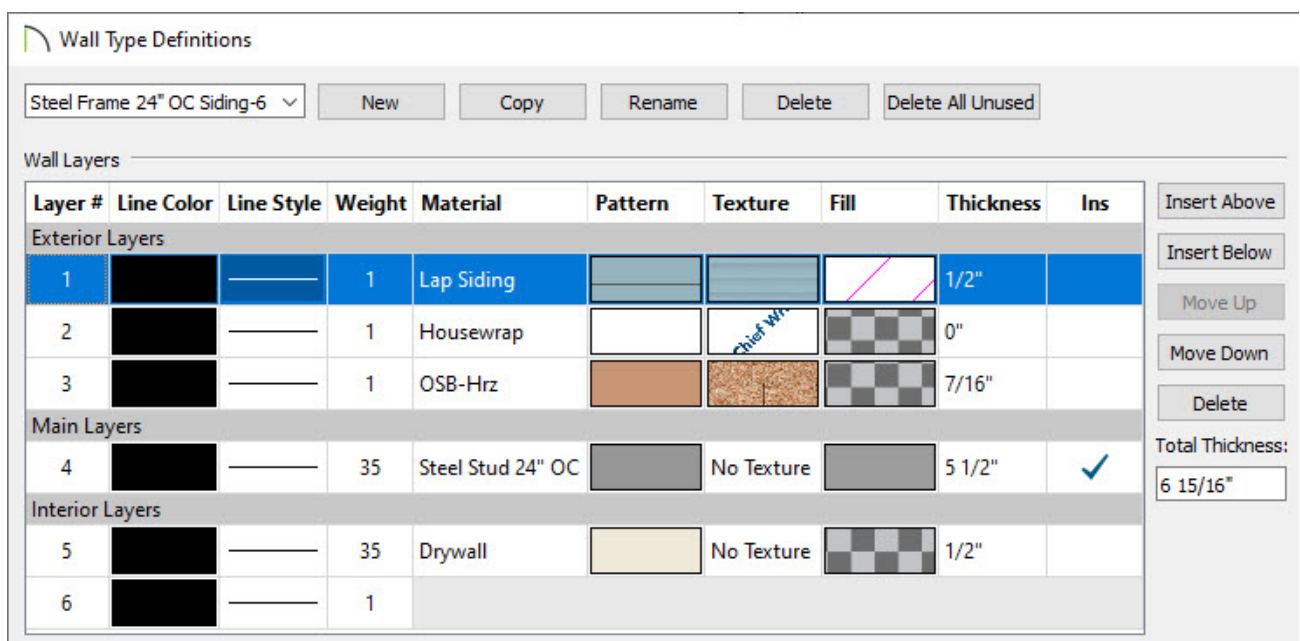
Once a wall type has been defined to use steel studs, you can specify this wall type for use as the default type for your Interior or Exterior Walls.




- Select **Edit> Default Settings**  from the menu, click to expand the **Walls** category, and double-click on either **Exterior Wall** or **Interior Wall**, whichever you are using the Steel Stud framing for. For this example, we will use Exterior Walls.

2. In the **Exterior Wall Defaults** dialog, click on the **WALL TYPES** Panel and select **Define**.



3. Specify your steel framed wall as your wall type, then click **OK**.

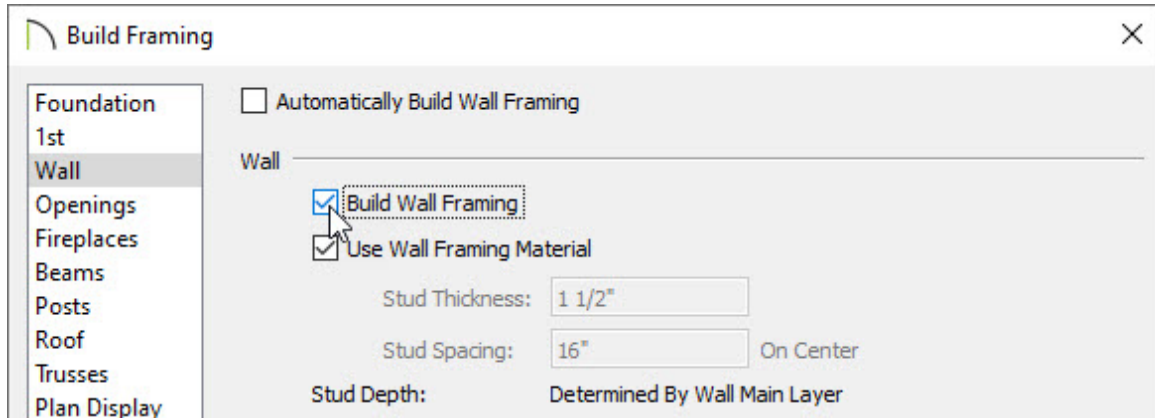


- If you specify your steel framed wall type as the Exterior Wall  tool to draw walls in this plan, they will be drawn using that wall type.
- Similarly, if you specify your steel framed wall type as the Interior Wall  tool to draw walls in this plan, they will be drawn using that wall type.
- You can also specify existing walls to use this custom wall type. Select one or more walls in your plan and click the **Open Object**  edit button. On the **WALL TYPES** panel of the **Wall Specification** dialog, select your custom steel-framed wall type from the drop-down list, then click **OK**


To build wall framing

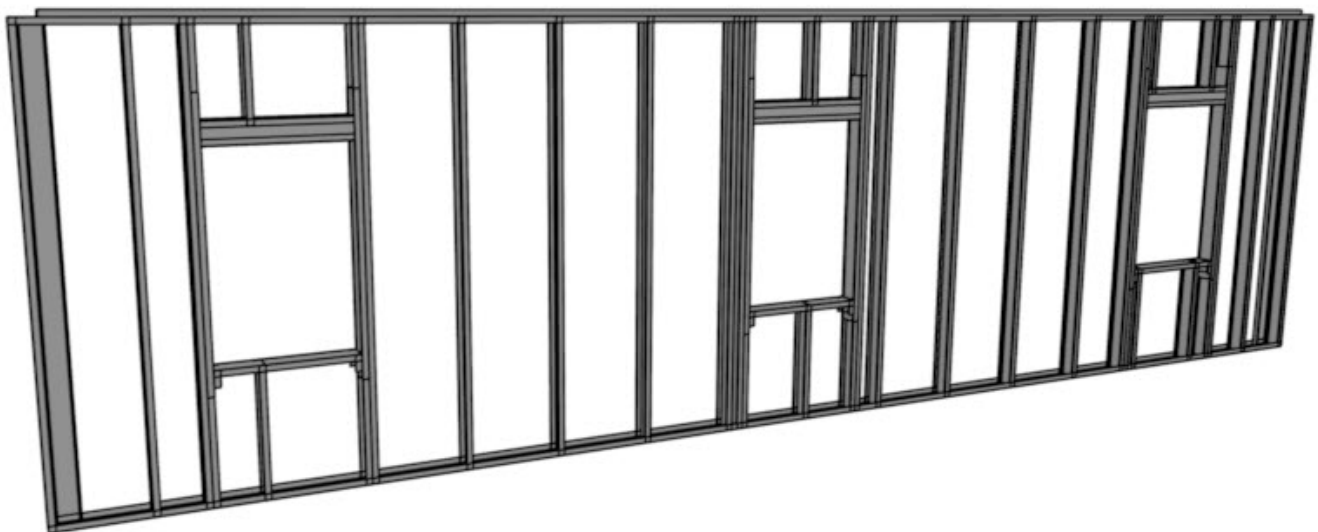
1. Select **Build> Framing> Build Framing** 


2. On the **WALL** panel of the **Build Framing** dialog:




- Check the box beside **Build Wall Framing**.
- Make sure that **Use Wall Framing Material** is also checked.
- Make any other needed changes to the wall framing settings, then click **OK**.

Any walls in your plan that have been assigned a steel framing material will have channeled steel framing that can be seen in a **Framing Overview** , as well as in the Materials List.




 [General Framing Guidelines \(/support/article/KB-00465/general-framing-guidelines.html\)](/support/article/KB-00465/general-framing-guidelines.html)

 [Specifying the on Center Spacing for Wall Framing \(/support/article/KB-00907/specifying-the-on-center-spacing-for-wall-framing.html\)](/support/article/KB-00907/specifying-the-on-center-spacing-for-wall-framing.html)



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