

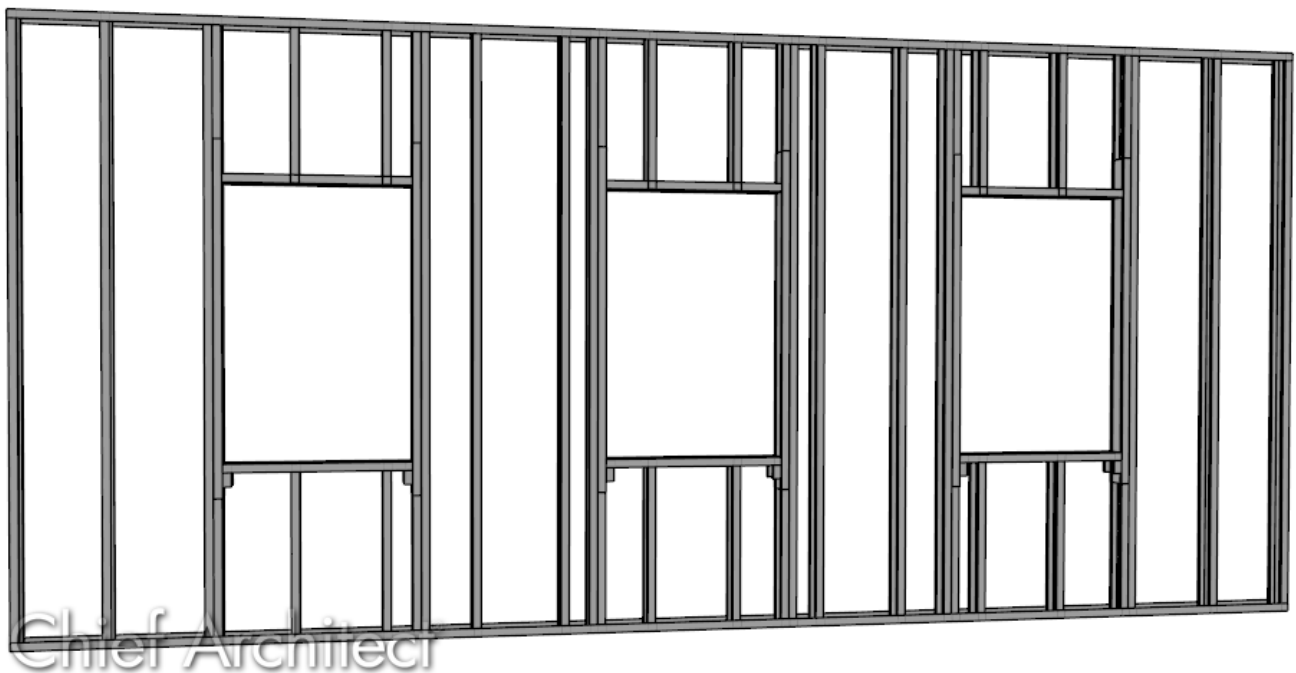
Creating Steel Framed Walls

Reference Number: **KB-00914**

Last Modified: **July 31, 2024**

QUESTION


My project calls for steel framed walls. How do I generate these types of walls?



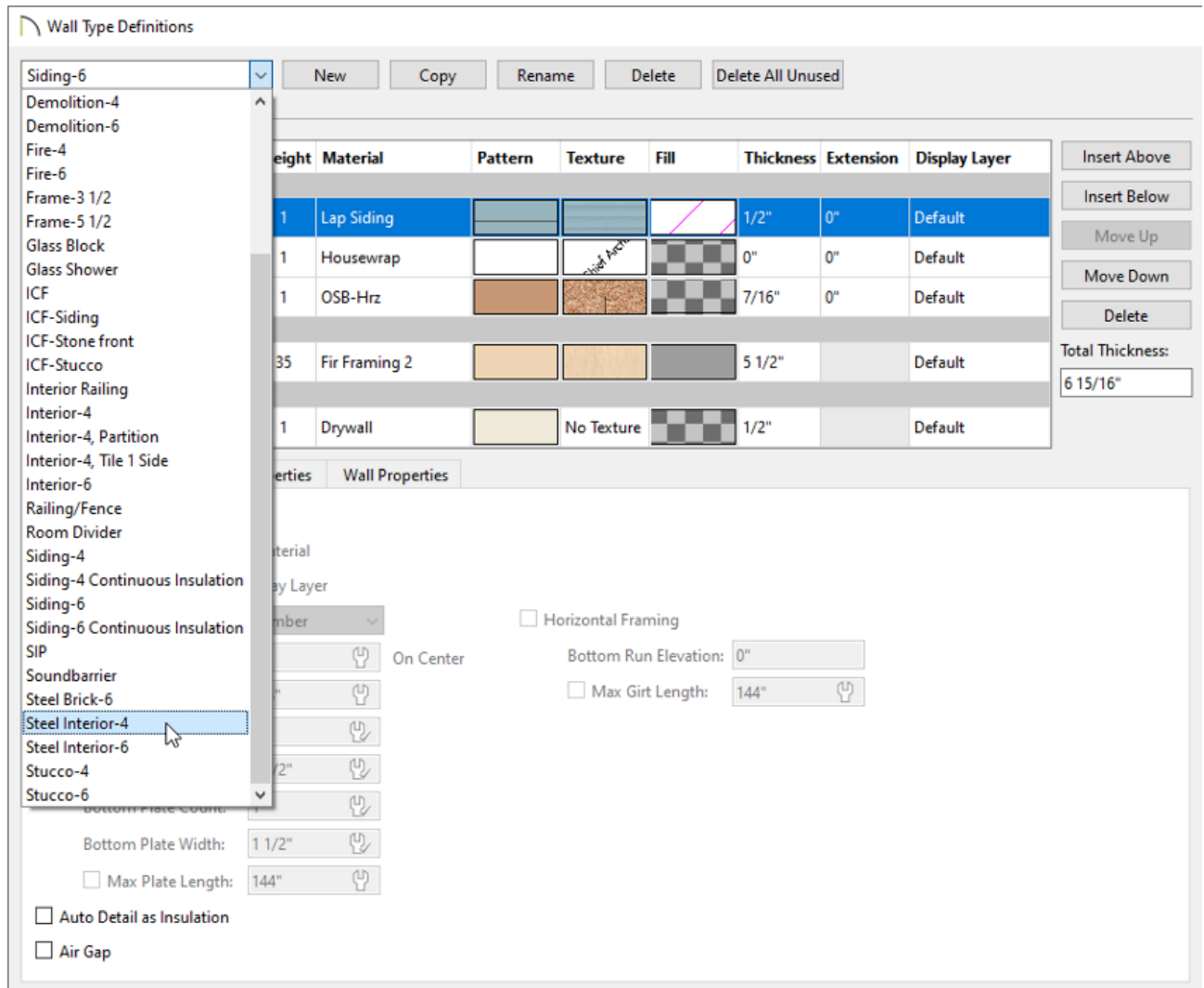
ANSWER

Wall framing properties are associated with the Main Layer that is specified for each wall type. You can use a predefined steel wall type or create your own by accessing the Wall Type Definitions dialog.

To create steel framed walls

1. In your plan, navigate to **Build> Wall> Define Wall Types** .
2. In the **Wall Type Definitions** dialog that opens, use the drop-down located in the top left corner to choose a predefined steel wall type.

In this example, the "Steel Interior-4" wall type is selected.



3. If you would like to make changes to the predefined steel wall type, click on the **Copy** button to create a copy of the wall type, then click **Rename** to change the name of the copied wall type to something descriptive.
4. Make any desired modifications to the wall type, then click **OK**.

It's important to ensure that the Main Layer consists of a steel material, is located in

the Main Layers section within the Wall Layers table, and that the layer is marked as Framing.

The predefined steel wall types consist of a Steel Stud 24" OC material, have the Framing box checked, and have the framing Type set to C-Channel.

Note: Click on the Material column for any given layer to open the Select Material dialog where a material of your choice can be selected. Common framing materials can be found by navigating to Chief Architect Core Catalogs> Materials> Framing and Structural.

In addition to materials, a variety of other wall settings can be customized here. For more information, please refer to the [Related Articles](#) section below.

Layer #	Line Color	Line Style	Weight	Material	Pattern	Texture	Fill	Thickness	Extension	Display Layer
Exterior Layers										
1			1	Drywall		No Texture		1/2"	0"	Default
Main Layers										
2			35	Steel Stud 16" OC		No Texture		3 1/2"		Default
Interior Layers										
3			1	Drywall		No Texture		1/2"		Default

Total Thickness: 4 1/2"

Material Properties | Layer Properties | Wall Properties

☒ Framing

☐ Use Default Framing Material

☒ Place Framing On Display Layer

Type: C-Channel

Stud Spacing: 16" On Center

Stud Width: 1 1/2"

Top Plate Count: 1

Top Plate Width: 1 1/2"

Bottom Plate Count: 1

Bottom Plate Width: 1 1/2"

☐ Max Plate Length: 144"

☐ Horizontal Framing

Bottom Run Elevation: 0"

☐ Max Girt Length: 144"



☐ Auto Detail as Insulation

☐ Air Gap

5. We can now specify this wall type to be used as the default going forward. Select **Edit> Default Settings** from the menu, expand the **Walls** category, select the

desired wall option, then click **Edit**.

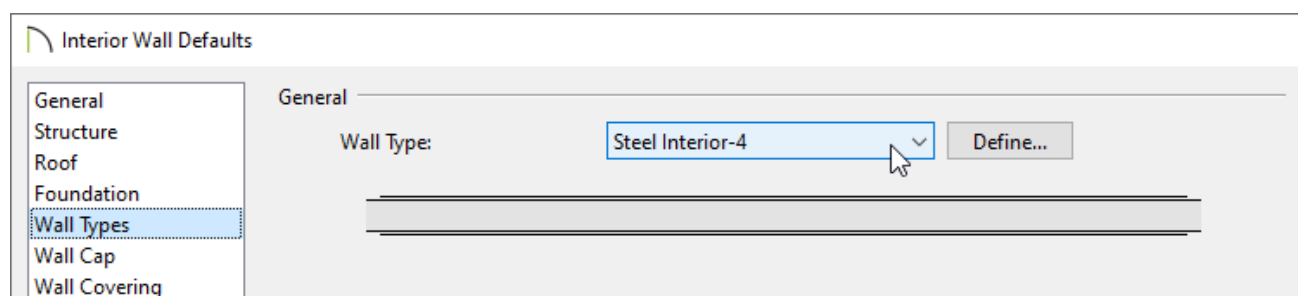
In this example, the "Interior Wall" option is selected.


- If you specify a steel framed wall type as the Interior Wall default, then next time you use the **Interior Wall**  tool to draw walls in this plan, they will be drawn using that wall type.
- Similarly, if you specify a steel framed wall type as the Exterior Wall default, then next time you use the **Exterior Wall**  tool to draw walls in this plan, they will be drawn using that wall type.

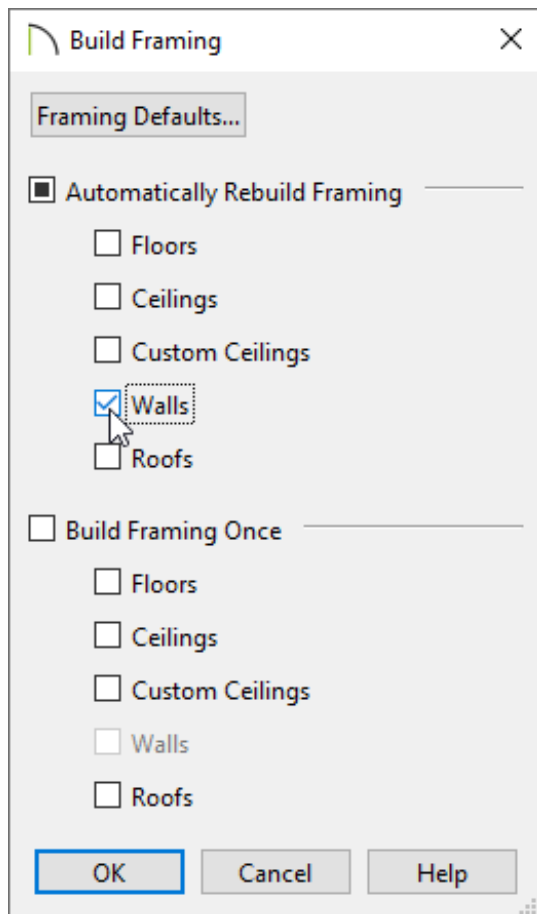
Note: You can also specify existing walls to use this custom wall type. Select one or more walls in your plan, click the Open Object edit button, then proceed with the steps below.

6. In the dialog that appears, click on the **WALL TYPES** Panel, use the Wall Type drop-down to choose your desired steel wall type, then click **OK** and **Done**.

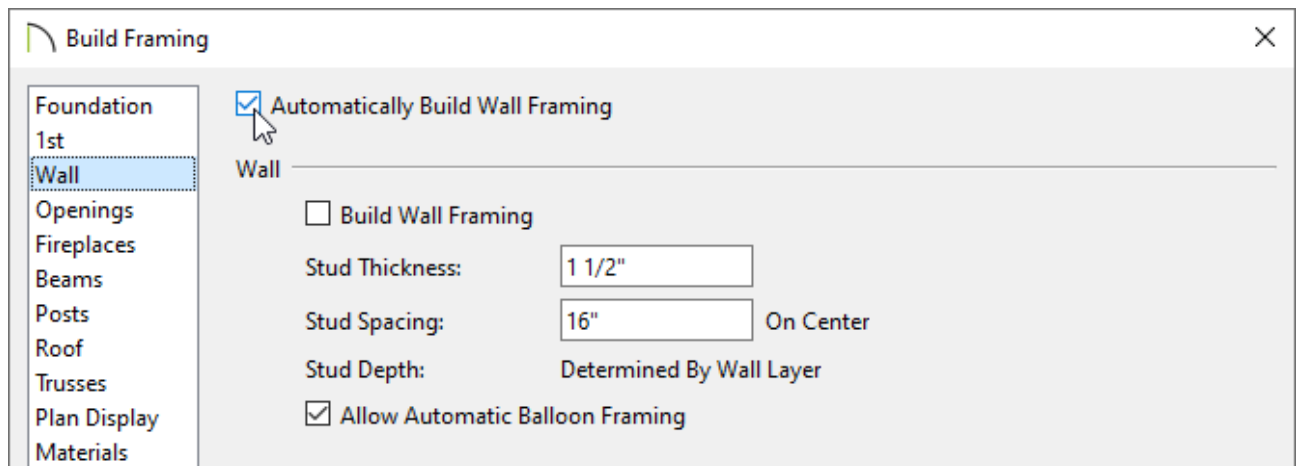
In this example, the "Steel Interior-4" wall type is selected.






7. Next, select **Build> Framing> Build Framing** .
8. In the **Build Framing** dialog, check the **Walls** box under either the **Automatically Rebuild Framing** or **Build Framing Once** section, then click **OK**.



In X15 and prior versions, check the **Automatically Build Wall Framing** or **Build Wall Framing** box located on the **WALL** panel, then click **OK**.




Now, any walls in your plan that are using a steel wall type will have steel framing that can be seen in a **Framing Overview** , as well as in a Materials List.

-  [Controlling Door and Window Framing \(/support/article/KB-00985/controlling-door-and-window-framing.html\)](/support/article/KB-00985/controlling-door-and-window-framing.html)
-  [Defining a New Wall Type \(/support/article/KB-02944/defining-a-new-wall-type.html\)](/support/article/KB-02944/defining-a-new-wall-type.html)
-  [General Framing Guidelines \(/support/article/KB-00465/general-framing-guidelines.html\)](/support/article/KB-00465/general-framing-guidelines.html)
-  [Manually Editing Wall Framing \(/support/article/KB-00571/manually-editing-wall-framing.html\)](/support/article/KB-00571/manually-editing-wall-framing.html)
-  [Specifying the On-Center \(OC\) Spacing for Wall Framing \(/support/article/KB-00907/specifying-the-on-center-oc-spacing-for-wall-framing.html\)](/support/article/KB-00907/specifying-the-on-center-oc-spacing-for-wall-framing.html)
-  [Troubleshooting Wall Framing Issues \(/support/article/KB-00335/troubleshooting-wall-framing-issues.html\)](/support/article/KB-00335/troubleshooting-wall-framing-issues.html)



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