Creating a Cutout for Doors in Concrete Walls

Reference Number: **KB-00965**

Last Modified: **February 8, 2022**

The information in this article applies to:

PREMIER

QUESTION

When I place doors into a concrete garage curb, stem wall, or pony wall I typically make the opening in the concrete larger than the doors framed rough opening. How can I do this in Chief Architect?

ANSWER

You can specify the desired size of a doors concrete cutout and then modify the framing around the door manually in a few simple steps.
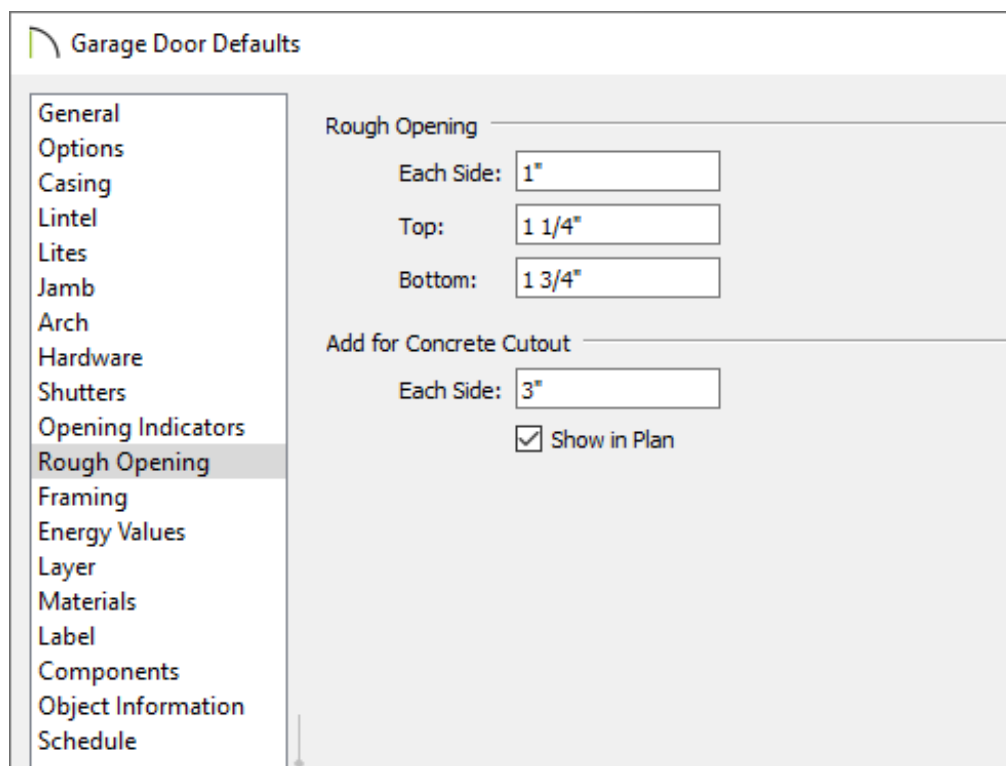
To specify the default concrete cutout size for doors

1. **Open** the plan in which you'd like to specify the size of the concrete cutout for a door.

In this example, a simple rectangular garage structure with a stem wall foundation is used.

2. Select **Edit> Default Settings** 🔧 from the menu. In the **Default Settings** dialog, expand the **Doors** category, select **Garage Door**, then click the **Edit** button.

3. On the ROUGH OPENING* panel of the **Garage 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.

   - In the Add for Concrete Cutout section, 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 wall, stem wall, or garage curb.

   - Uncheck **Show in Plan** to suppress the display of the concrete cutout in floor plan view.

     In this example, 3" is used, which will accommodate two trimmers (Jack studs) on each side of the garage door.

4. On the FRAMING panel of the **Garage 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.

  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 not available in X12 and prior program versions.

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

- Specify the **Header Placement**. This options is not available in X12 and prior program versions.

- Specify the **Trimmer Count** and the **King Stud Count**. The **King Stud Count** is not available in X13 and prior program versions.

- Specify the **Sill** properties.

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

> **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.

5. Click **OK** to close the dialog, then click **Done**.

6. Repeat steps 2-4 for any other door types that need to be modified in this way.

To edit framing around a door

> **Note:** It's important to make sure a foundation is built before generating wall framing.

1. If you have not done so already, go ahead and generate wall framing in the plan.

- Select **Build> Framing> Build Framing** from the menu, and on the WALL panel of the **Build Framing** dialog, check the box beside **Build Wall Framing**, then click **OK**.

- A message may ask if you want to display wall framing. Click **Yes** to turn on the associated framing layer(s) in floor plan view, or **No** to leave them turned off. Regardless of your choice, wall framing will be built.

2. Click the **Select Objects** ⬚ button, click on a door to select it, then click the **Open Object** ⬚ edit button.

3. On the ROUGH OPENING* panel of the **Door Specification** dialog:

   In X13 and prior program versions, select the FRAMING panel instead.
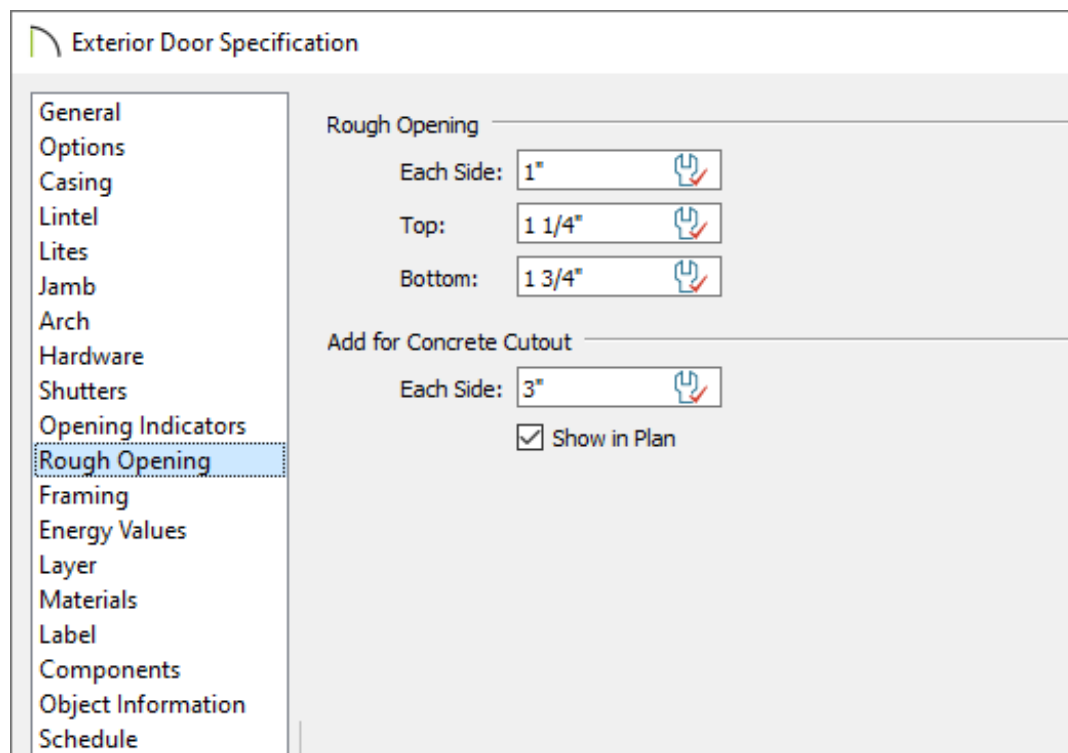
- In the **Rough Opening** section, add the **Top** value to the **Height** of the door and make a note of the total. This total is the length that the door trimmers need to be to reach from the header down through the concrete cutout to the floor.

- In this example, the total we will use is 97 1/4" (96" door height plus 1 1/4" for the Top Rough Opening).

4. Next, click on the wall that has a door with framing that you want to edit to select it, then click the **Open Wall Detail** ⊞ edit button.
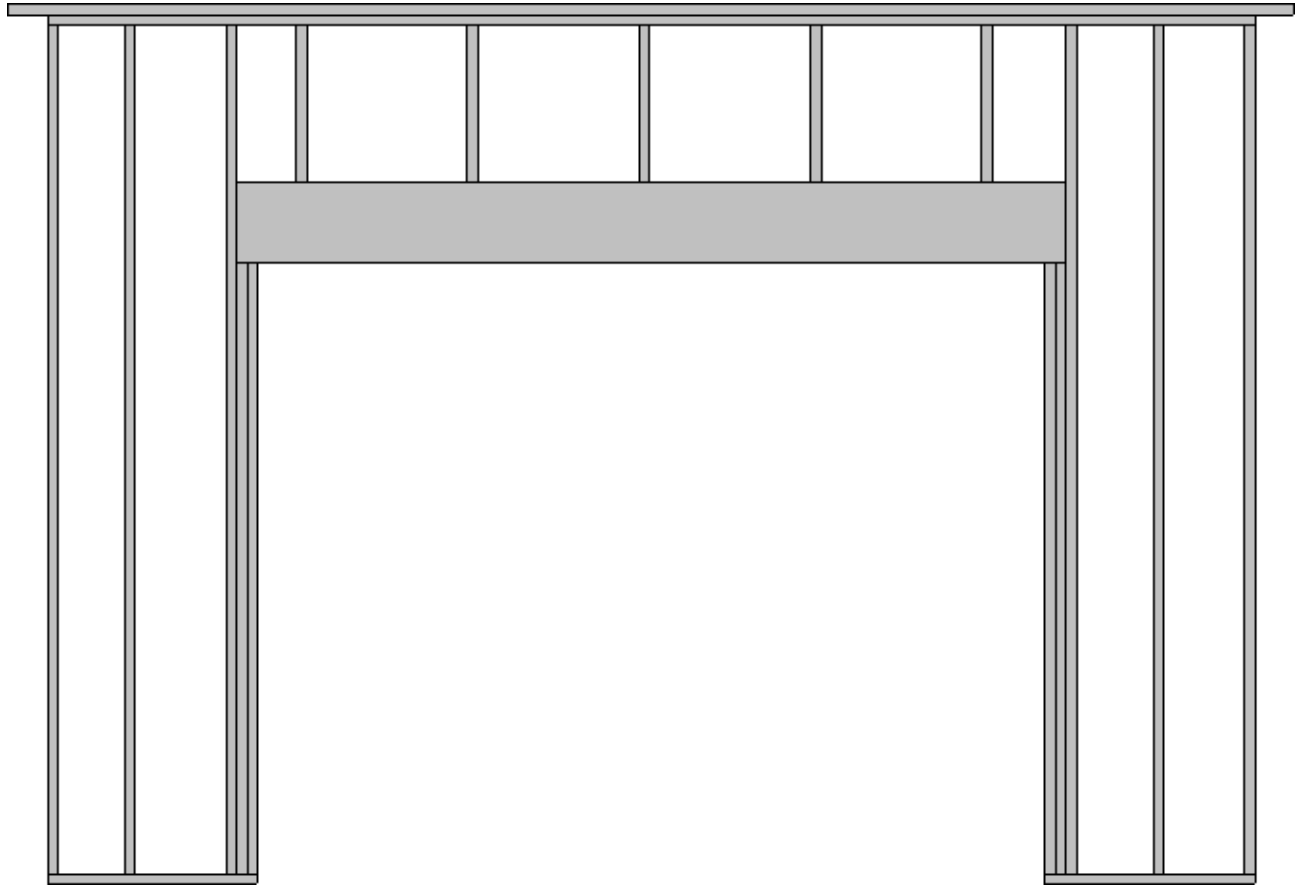
5. Select one of the door trimmers and click the **Open Object** ⊓ edit button. On the GENERAL panel of the **Framing Specification (Trimmer)** dialog:

## Framing Specification (Trimmer)

General
Line Style
Fill Style
Materials
Label
Components
Object Information
Schedule

Wall Framing Options

Width: 5 1/2"

Thickness: 1 1/2"

Role: Use Automatic (Trimmer) ⌄

Type: Lumber ⌄

☐ Treated

Rotate: ⦿ None ◯ Flat To Outside ◯ Flat To Inside

Length and Angle

Length: 97 1/4"

Angle: 90.0°

Lock: ◯ Start ◯ Center ⦿ End

- Click the radio button beside **Lock End** to prevent the top edge of the selected trimmer from moving.

- Specify the **Length** as the total noted for the door in step 2, above.

  If you recall, we will be using a value of 97 1/4" for this example.

- Click **OK** to close the dialog and apply your change.

6. Notice that the selected trimmer is now longer than the others.
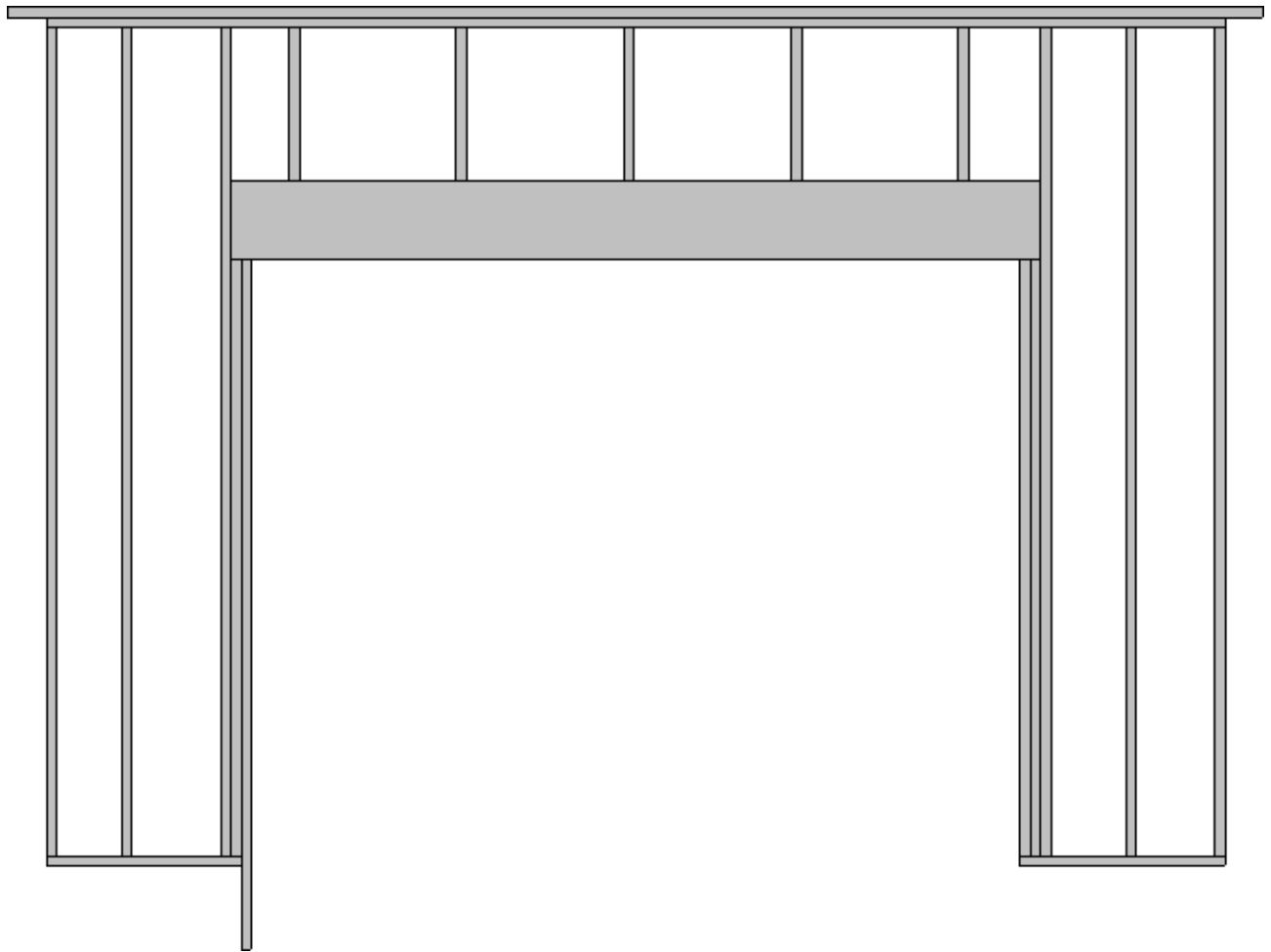
7. Repeat step 5 to lengthen all of the trimmers as needed.

> **Note:** If adjusting a king stud, select it and use the edit handles to adjust the overall length as desired. The bottom plate may need its edge moved out of the way so that the bottom of the king stud can be shortened or extended.

8. Select **Edit> Snap Settings** from the menu and make sure that **Object Snaps** are enabled.

9. Select each of the bottom plates and resize each of them to your liking, making sure that they snap to the studs.
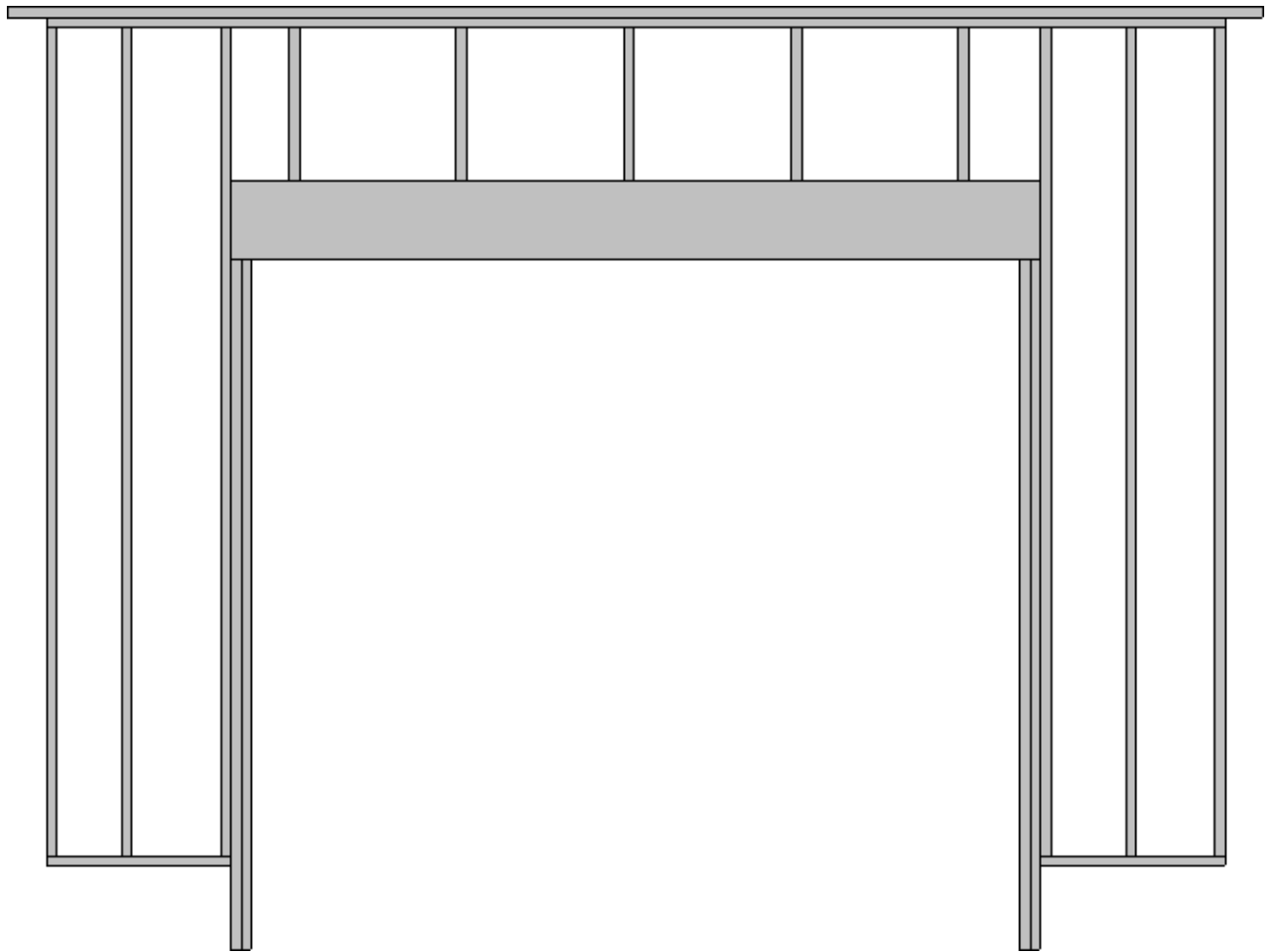
10. Save 🖫 your work, close the Wall Detail window, and create a **Framing Overview** 🏠 to see the results.

> **Note:** If the foundation does not display in the framing overview, select Tools> Layer Settings> Display Options, put a check in the Disp column next to the Walls, Foundation layer, then click OK.

Related Articles

⬛ Controlling Door and Window Framing (/support/article/KB-00985/controlling-door-and-window-framing.html)

⬛ (https://chieftalk.chiefarchitect.com/)

CA (/blog/)

⬛ (https://www.facebook.com/ChiefArchitect)

⬛ (https://www.youtube.com/user/ChiefArchitectInc)

⬛ (https://www.instagram.com/chiefarchitect/)

⬛ (https://www.houzz.com/pro/chiefarchitect/)

⬛ (https://www.pinterest.com/chiefarchitect/)