

Chapter One

INTRODUCTION TO FRAMING

The trade of wood framing comprises the rough carpentry skills needed to produce the “skeleton” of a building and its first layer of “skin.” The skeleton consists of the structural lumber forming the floors, walls, and roof. The skin consists of the lumber that encloses the skeleton and provides a surface for subsequent layers of protective and decorative finish materials.

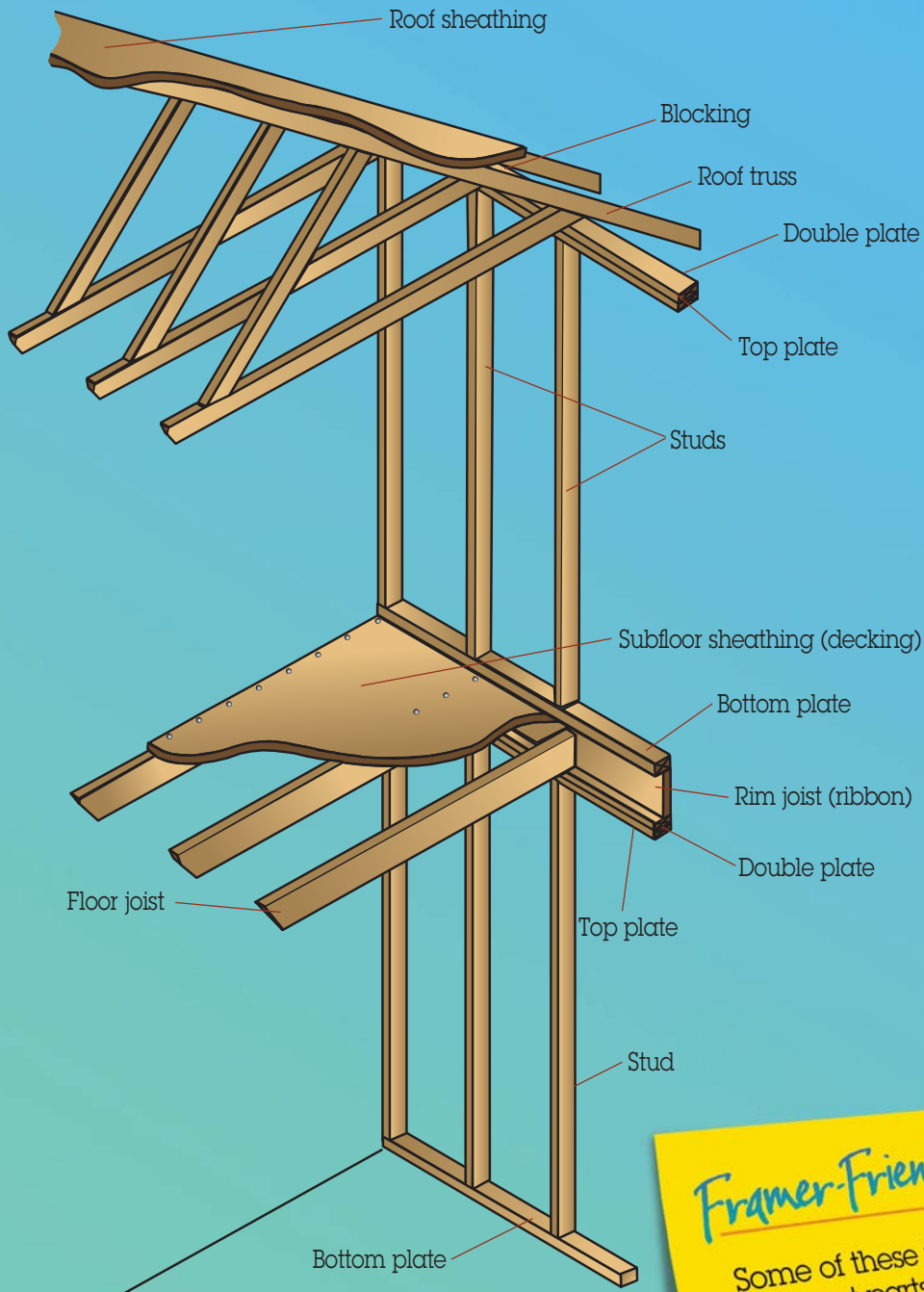
This chapter is an illustrated review of a framer’s most basic tools, materials, and terminology. This basic information is often not even taught on the job site, so if you don’t know it when you arrive for work, you will have to play a guessing game or ask a lot of questions.

The detailed illustrations serve as a handy reference and help to reduce confusion when different words are used for the same item. Confusion can arise when framers move from job site to job site and work with different people. For example, bottom plates are often known as *sole plates*, backers as

partitions, and trimmers as *jack studs*. But it doesn’t matter what they are called as long as you know what they are. There is also a more detailed list of framing terms with definitions at the back of the book.

The suggested organization for a framing tool truck presented in this chapter is just an example of how a truck might be set up for tool storage. Its purpose is, once again, to reduce confusion and make the job easier. It is amazing how much time can be spent looking for tools and nails if they aren’t put where you expect them to be.

Framing Terms (continued)



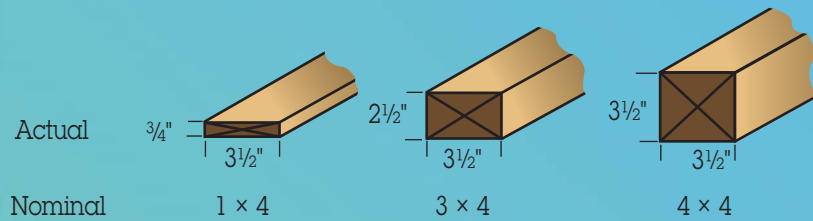
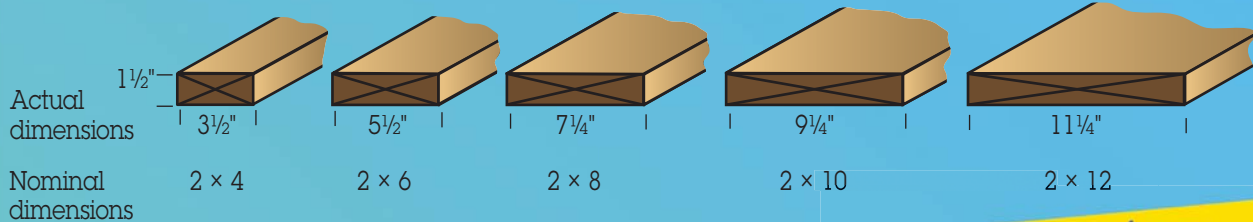
Framer-Friendly Tips

Some of these terms vary in different parts of the country. For example, the bottom plate is sometimes called the sole plate.

Framing Lumber

Lumber is sized in “nominal,” as opposed to “actual,” dimensions. A nominal dimension rounds off the actual dimension to the next highest whole

number. For example, a piece of lumber that actually measures $1\frac{1}{2}'' \times 3\frac{1}{2}''$ is rounded off to the nominal $2'' \times 4''$.



Framer-Friendly Tips
At the mill, this lumber starts out as the actual dimensions, but after it has been surfaced, it is reduced to the nominal dimension.

