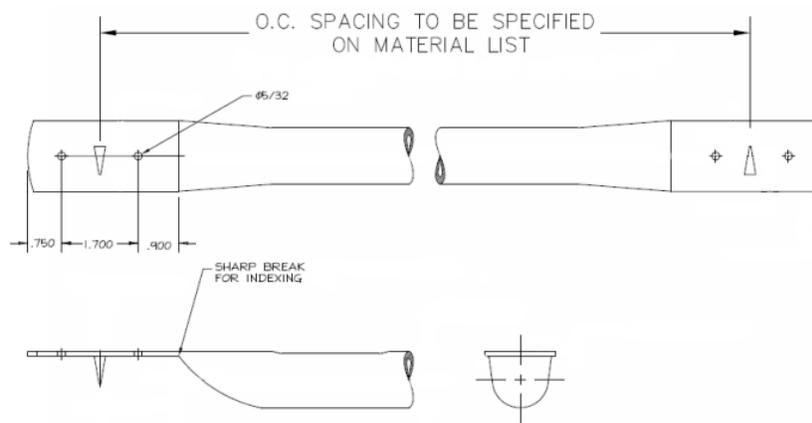


STRUT BRACING

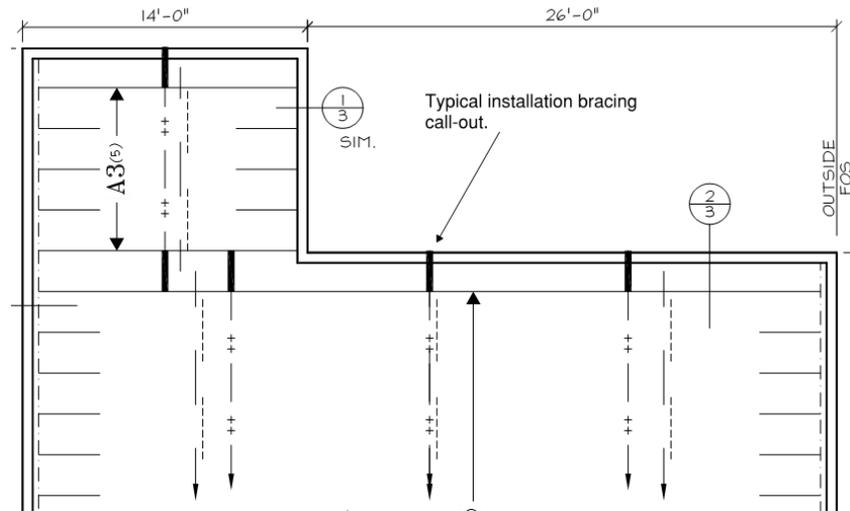
By Ben Seely, P.E. and David Cortnik, EIT

The original TJL open-web truss put Trus Joist on the map back in the 1960s. Over the decades, Trus Joist continued to add innovative truss series to its product line, with unprecedented load-carrying capabilities. This allowed engineers to span greater distances than ever before. In 1975, shortly after the TJ/60 series was born (today we call it the [Red-S™ series](#)), installation bracing, or “strut bracing,” was created to ensure safe installation over these impressive spans. Fast forward to 2015 and, while our name has changed to RedBuilt, we continue to offer impressively long spans and we still supply strut bracing for installation safety.

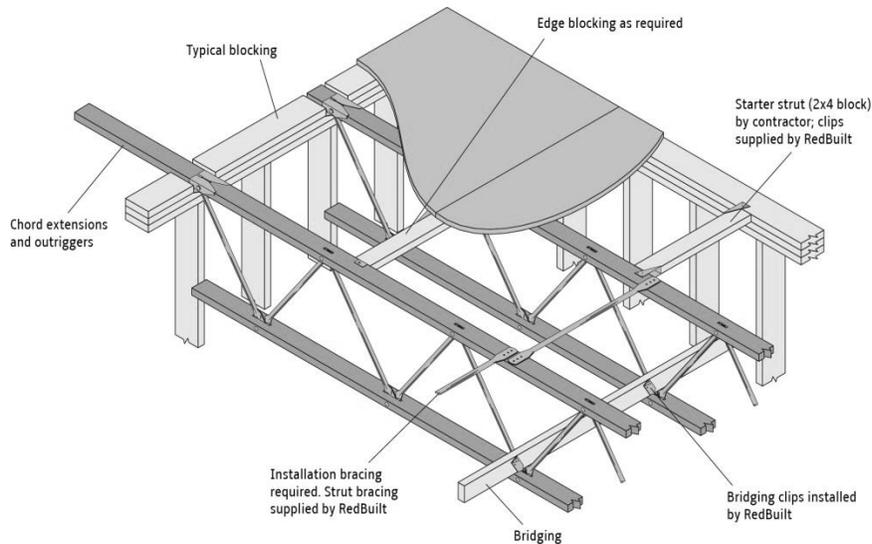
Strut bracing prevents lateral buckling of the chord members until adequate stability is achieved by connection of the sheathing. RedBuilt provides this bracing with every job, at no additional cost. **Strut bracing is temporary erection bracing and can be removed, if desired, after the sheathing has been attached.** Strut bracing is made from 1" or 1¼" 19 gauge or 20 gauge standard truss web tubing. The strut bracing for double chord trusses (Red-S™, Red-M™ and Red-H™ series) has an indexing tab for correct placement.



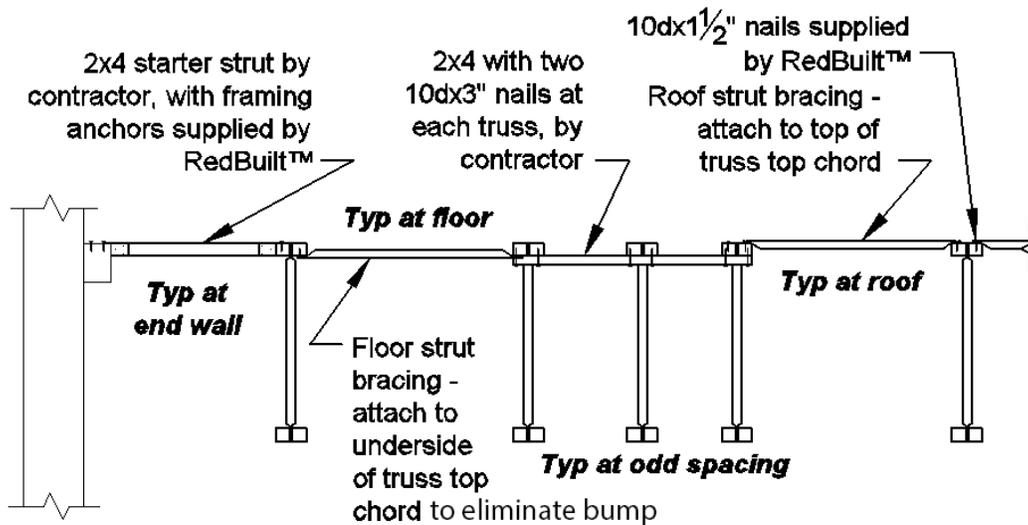
The number of strut bracing rows required is dependent upon truss depth, series and on-center spacing, and will be indicated on the shop drawings for each project, by dashed lines.



Strut bracing is available in 16", 19.2", 24", 32", and 48" on-center spacing. For odd spacing, the contractor must install a 2x4 with 2-10d nails at each truss as shown in the detail below. At end spaces (ends of the bay), a 2x4 "starter strut" is required, and uses framing anchors at each end. Strut bracing must always be tied back to a laterally braced end wall or beam. These details from our [Open-Web Truss Installation Information](#) will help you understand how to properly install strut bracing.



For ease of installation, strut bracing is usually nailed to the top of the truss top chord, as the trusses are installed. For floor applications, to avoid a bump in the sheathing, it may be nailed to the underside of the chord, or may be removed as permanent sheathing is installed.



Next time you see bundles of what looks like truss webs delivered with your RedBuilt trusses, make sure your contractor understands its purpose and installs it—strut bracing is there for your safety.

About the authors

Ben Seely, P.E., is a RedBuilt engineer in the Boise, ID Design Center. He currently designs roof and floor systems for use in commercial buildings utilizing open-web trusses. Ben graduated from Boise State University and currently lives in Meridian, ID where he and his wife face the universal joys and challenges of raising a teenage son!

David Cortnik, EIT, is a proud graduate of The Ohio State University and an avid Cleveland sports fan. He is the Design Center Supervisor at our Delaware, OH location where he helps manage the design process of our National Accounts program, which focuses on a variety of prototypical buildings, standardized to keep quality and cost-efficiency in mind.