



Creating Beams in Home Designer

Reference Number: **KB-00458**

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This article also applies to the following legacy products:
Pro | Architectural | Suite

QUESTION

How do I add a beam to my plan in Home Designer?



ANSWER


In Home Designer 2026 and newer, as well as in legacy Home Designer Pro, floor, ceiling, and roof beams can be created using the Framing tools. In legacy products Home Designer Architectural and Home Designer Suite, you can use a soffit instead to represent your

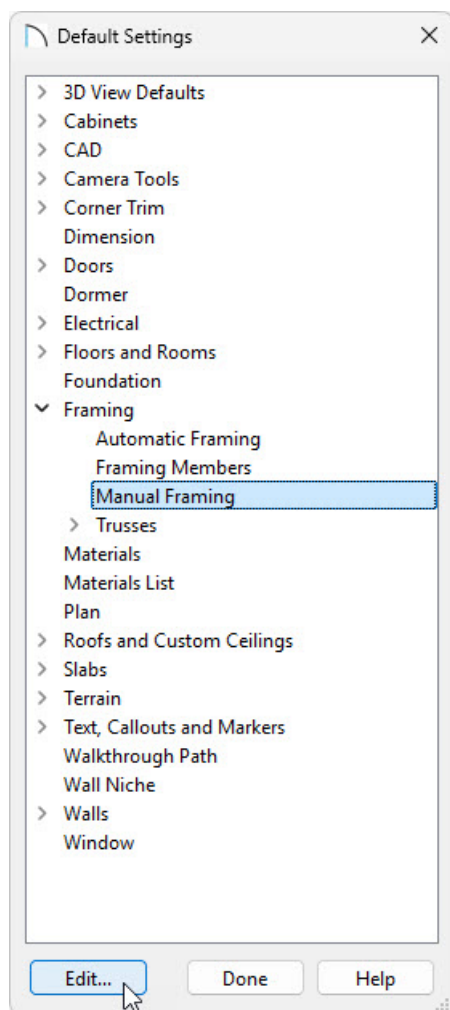
beams.

Setting up beam defaults*

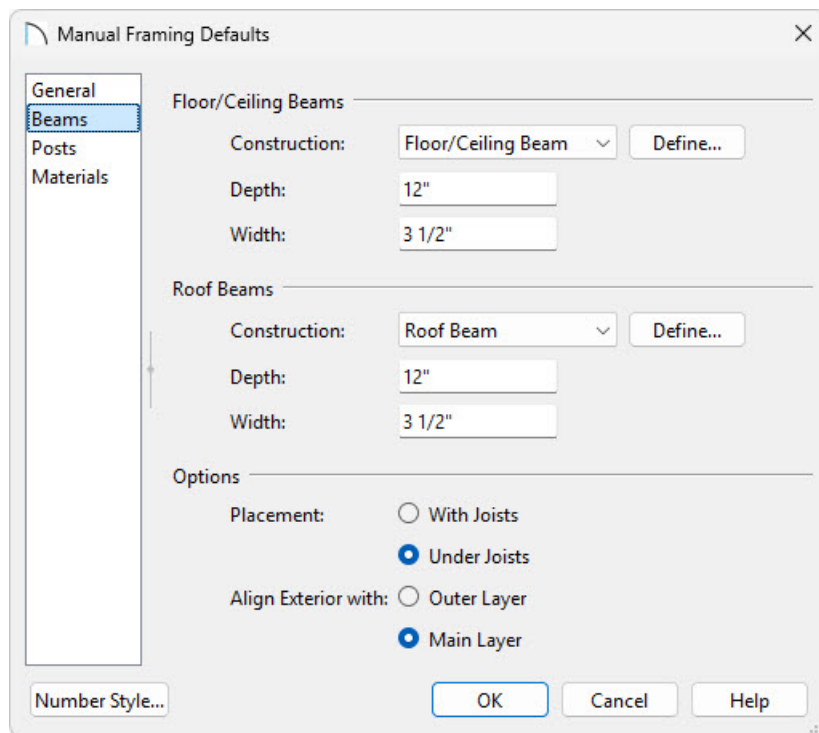
**Applies to Home Designer 2026 and Home Designer Pro*

1. From the menu, navigate to **Edit> Default Settings** , expand the **Framing** category, select **Manual Framing**, then click **Edit**.

In Home Designer Pro 2025 and prior, navigate to **Edit> Default Settings** , select **Framing**, then click Edit.



2. In the **Manual Framing Defaults** dialog which opens next, select the **BEAMS** panel:



- Edit the **Depth** and **Width** of the Floor/Ceiling Beams.

In Home Designer Pro 2025 and prior, click the **Edit Floor Beam Defaults** button to edit the properties for the Floor/Ceiling Beam tool.

- Edit the **Depth** and **Width** of the Roof Beams.



In Home Designer Pro 2025 and prior, click the **Edit Roof Beam Defaults** to edit the properties for the Roof Beam tool

- Specify the **Placement** of Floor/Ceiling Beams relative to the joists. **With Joists** places beams at the same height as the joists they hang on the beams; **Under Joists** places beams below joists so they bear on the beams.
- The exterior surface of Beams can snap to the **Outer Layer** of the wall it bears on or the **Main Layer**.

3. Once all desired changes have been made, click **OK** and **Done** to close the dialog boxes.

Creating floor, ceiling, or roof beams

**Applies to Home Designer 2026 and Home Designer Pro*

1. From the menu, select **Build> Framing> Roof Beam**  or **Build> Framing> Floor/Ceiling Beam** , depending on the type of beam that you want to create.




Note: Roof Beams are typically drawn across rafters and placed directly under them.

Floor/Ceiling Beams should be placed before joists are automatically generated.

2. Once you have selected one of the Beam tools, you will be able to click and drag in a plan view to create the beam.

When creating beams using this method, you may be prompted with a Question message asking if you want to display one or more layers in the current view. If this occurs, click Yes to see the newly created beam(s) in the current view, or click No to hide their display. For more information on controlling layers please see the [Related Articles](#) section below.

Creating ceiling beams using soffits

1. Select **Build> Cabinet> Soffit** , and click to place a soffit into a room where a ceiling beam is needed.
2. With the **Select Objects**  tool active, click on the soffit and use the various edit handles to extend and resize the soffit so it spans the length of the room.
3. With the soffit still selected, click the **Open Object**  edit button.
4. In the **Soffit Specification** dialog that displays:
 - On the **GENERAL** panel, edit the **Width**, **Height**, and **Depth** values to equal the desired size for the beam.

Soffit Specification

General

Moldings

Fill Style

Materials

Label

Components

Object Information

Size/Position

Width: 24"

Height: 17 5/8"

Depth: 271"

Floor to Top: 107 5/8"

Floor to Bottom: 90" ☒ Auto Adjust Height

☐ Sloped Soffit

Height at Back Face: 0"

Height at Front Face: 0"

Options

Corner Type: ☒ None ☐ Diagonal Front ☐ L-Shaped

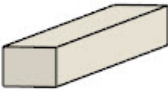
☐ Place Under Ceiling

☐ Place Under Roof

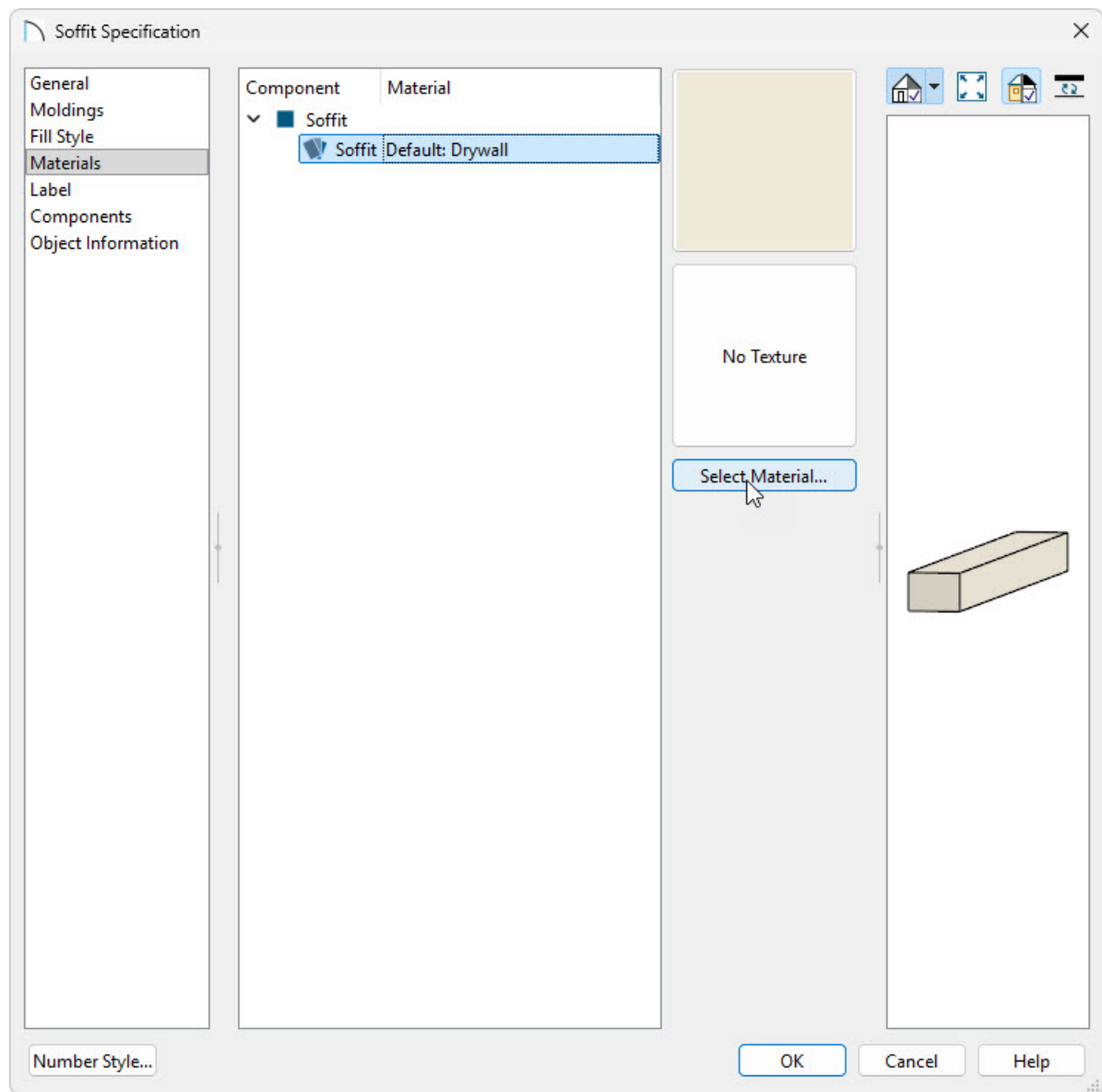
☐ Ignore Room Moldings

Number Style...

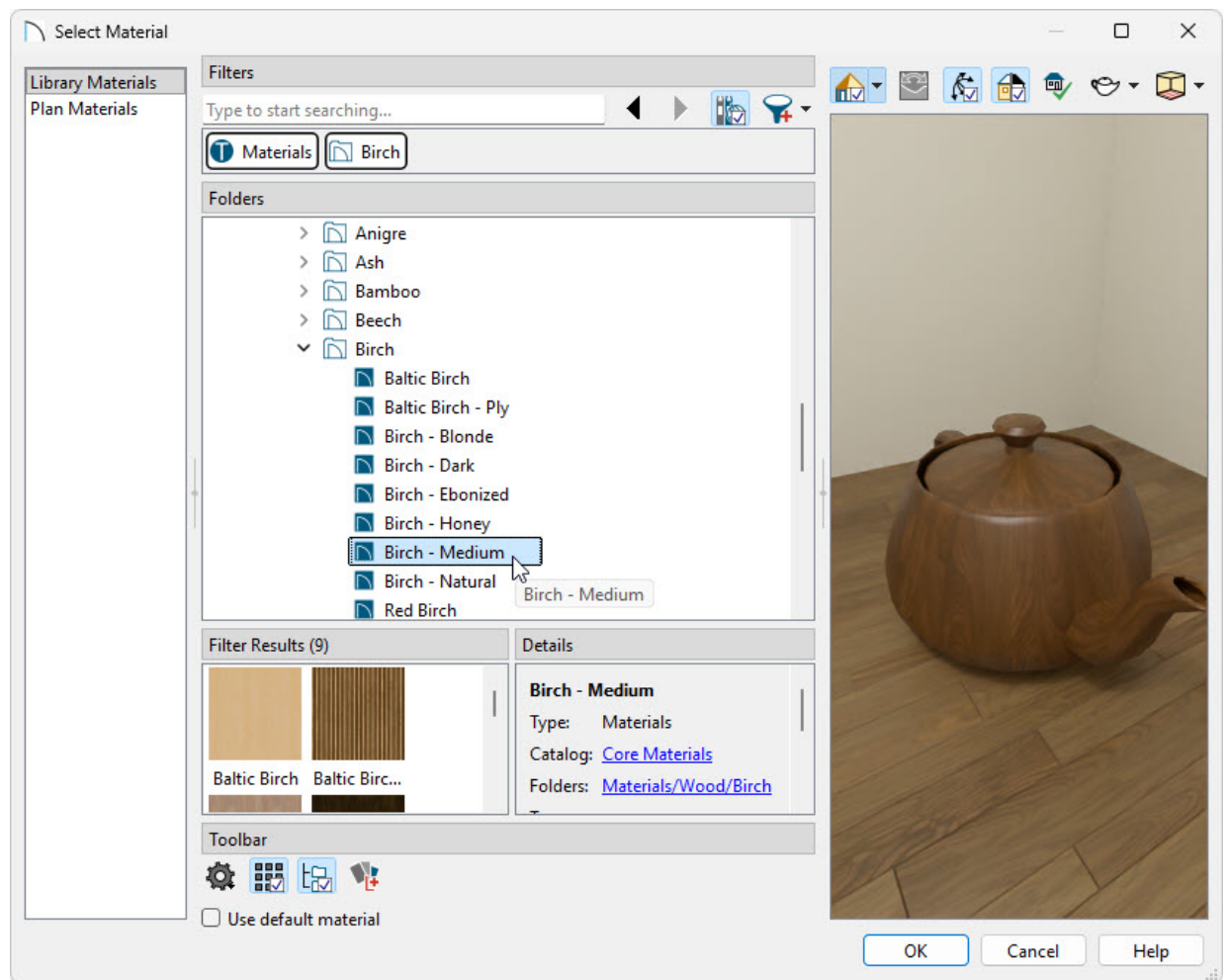
OK Cancel Help



- On the **MATERIALS** panel, select the **Soffit** component and then click the **Select Material** button.





- In the **Select Material** dialog, browse to **Materials> Wood**, choose the desired wood grain for the beam, then click **OK**.



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

5. With the soffit still selected, click the **Copy/Paste**  edit button.

6. Click on the **Sticky Mode**  edit tool to remain in and continue clicking to paste multiple copies of the selected object. Repeat this process as many times as you'd like.

7. Once you have placed the appropriate number of soffits, click the **Select Objects**  button, or tap the spacebar on your keyboard to cancel the Sticky Mode operation.


8. Create a **Camera**  view to see your results.

Related Articles

 [Creating Ceiling Beams \(/support/article/KB-00161/creating-ceiling-beams.html\)](/support/article/KB-00161/creating-ceiling-beams.html)

 [Displaying Framing in a Cross Section/Elevation View](https://www.chiefarchitect.com/support/article/KB-00017/displaying-framing-in-a-cross-section-elevation-view.html)

(<https://www.chiefarchitect.com/support/article/KB-00017/displaying-framing-in-a-cross-section-elevation-view.html>)

 [Understanding Layers \(/support/article/KB-03183/understanding-layers.html\)](/support/article/KB-03183/understanding-layers.html)