



Generating Framing in Home Designer

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This article also applies to the following legacy products:
Pro

QUESTION

What is the best way to approach framing in Home Designer?




ANSWER

In Home Designer Pro as well as Home Designer 2026 and newer, framing can be generated in your designs, but there are some general practices that are important to be aware of, specifically:

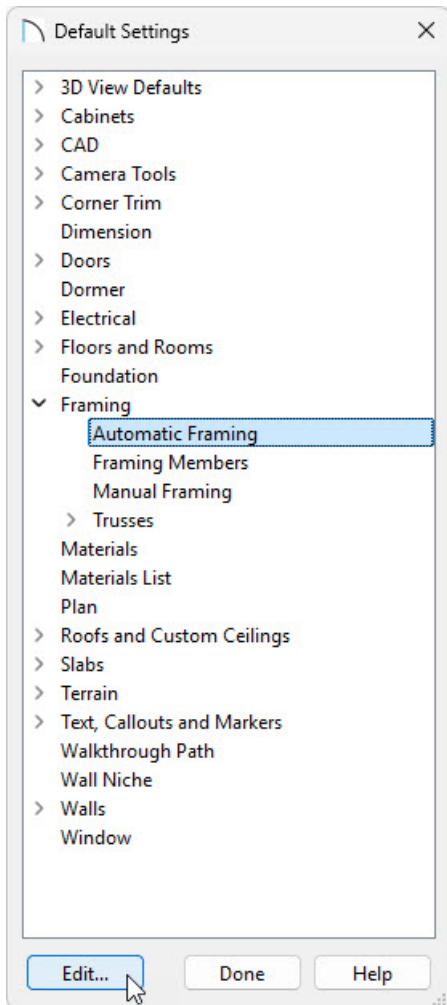
- [Setting framing defaults](#)
- [Generating automatic framing](#)
- [Manually building and editing framing](#)
- [Preparing an existing plan for new framing](#)

Before you begin drawing your plan or generating framing, it is recommended you set up your framing defaults to reflect the way you want the structure to be built. Changing these values after the structure is complete may require you to re-do work and lower your productivity

To set framing defaults

1. Select **Edit> Default Settings**  from the menu, expand the **Framing** category, select **Automatic Framing**, then click **Edit**.

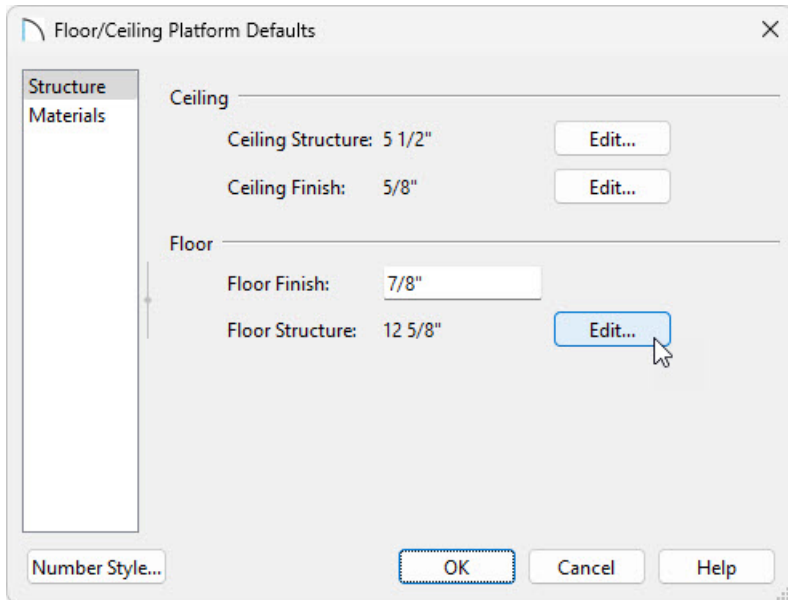
In Home Designer Pro 2025 and prior, select **Edit> Default Settings**  from the menu, select the **Framing** category, then click **Edit**.



2. In the **Automatic Framing Defaults** dialog, visit each panel and specify the spacing, framing member size, framing member type, and other information to your liking, then click **OK**.

Note: While all framing default settings are important to your structure, the floor framing will be the most time consuming to change after your plan is complete.

3. Remaining in the Default Settings, expand the **Floors and Rooms** category, select the **Floor/Ceiling Platform** option, then click **Edit**. In the **Floor/Ceiling Platform Defaults** dialog, make any desired changes to the Floor/Ceiling Structure, as necessary, then click **OK**.



4. Remaining in the Default Settings, expand **Roof and Custom Ceiling**, select **Roof**, and then click **Edit**. Edit the roof defaults to your liking, particularly the options located on the **STRUCTURE** panel, then click **OK**.
5. If you need to adjust the framing wall layers located within your Wall Types, expand the **Walls** category, select a Wall tool, click **Edit**, then select the **Define** button located on the **WALL TYPES** panel. This will open the **Wall Type Definitions** dialog. After making any desired changes, click **OK**.

For more information on modifying wall types, please see the appropriate resource located in the [Related Articles](#) section below.

6. Expand the **Doors** default category, **Edit** each of the Door tools, and access the **FRAMING** and **ROUGH OPENING** panels to modify the associated properties. Perform the same procedure for the **Window** defaults.
7. Once all desired changes have been made to the defaults, click **Done**.

If the defaults you set are how a majority of your plans will be designed, it would be best to create a plan template. A plan template allows you to save all of the changes made in your default settings for use in future plan files. This feature is available in Home Designer 2026 and newer versions. Please see the [Related Articles](#) section for more information.

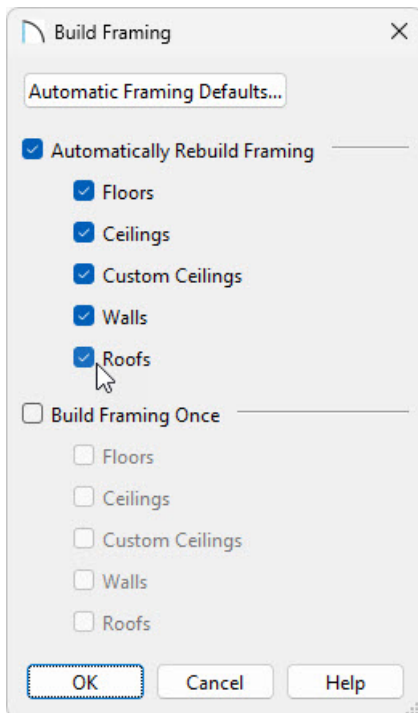
You can build framing at any time, however, any structural changes made will not update the framing unless automatic framing is enabled or the framing is rebuilt. Additionally, any customized framing will need to be re-drawn each time the framing is rebuilt. As such, it may be best to wait until you are confident that your plan is in its final state before framing is generated.

To generate automatic framing

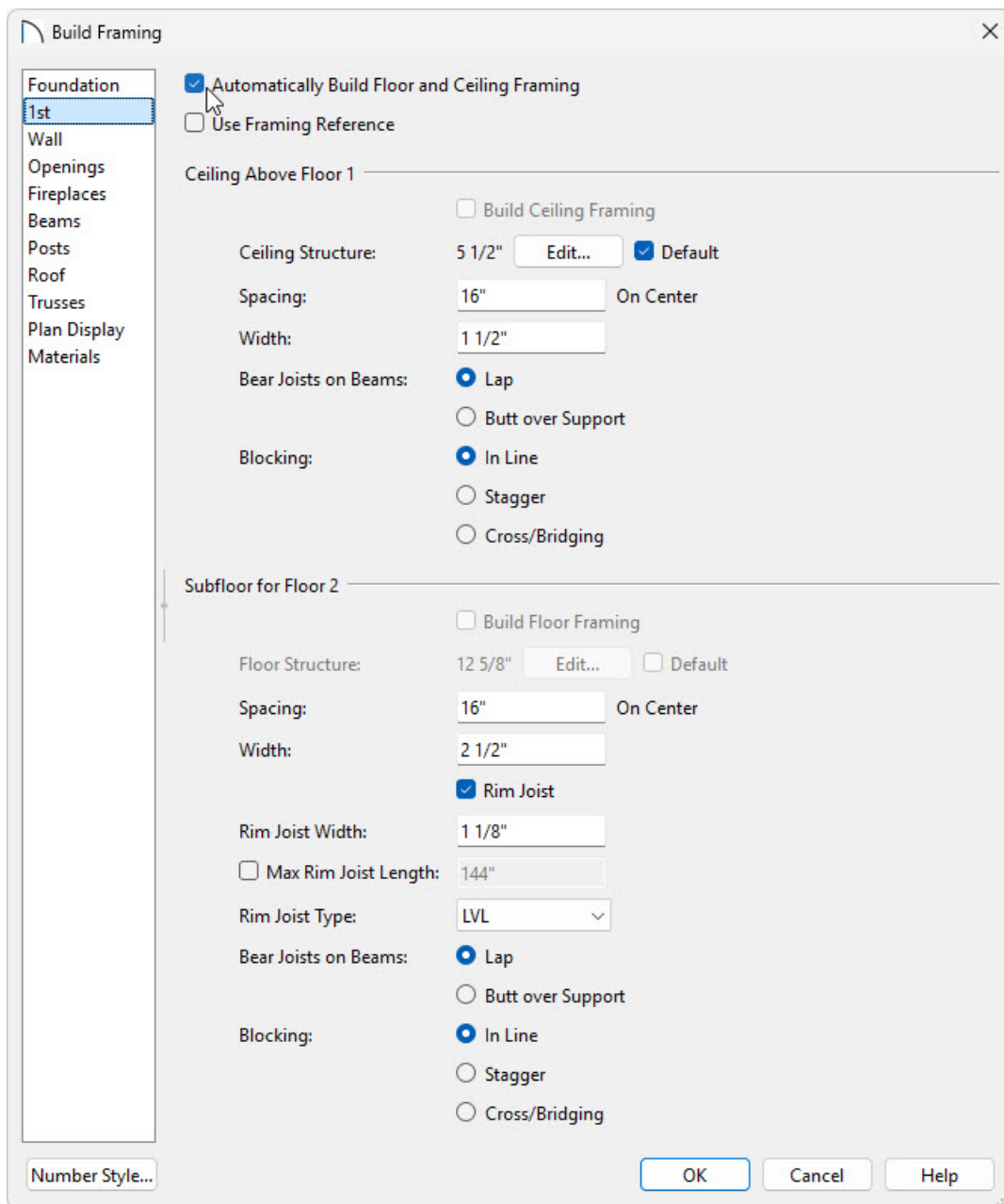
1. Select **Build> Framing> Build Framing**  from the menu.

Note: A Build All Framing tool is also available, allowing you to quickly build, or rebuild, all floor, ceiling, wall, and roof framing throughout the current plan with a single click. This is only recommended after you have set all of your framing properties to your liking.

2. In the **Build Framing** dialog, check the appropriate boxes under either the **Automatically Rebuild Framing** or **Build Framing Once** section.



In Home Designer Pro 2024 and prior versions, visit each panel and check the appropriate **Build** or **Automatically Build Framing** box.



3. Click **OK** to generate framing throughout your plan.

It is common to use a combination of both automatic and manual framing in a single Home Designer plan.

To manually build or edit framing

1. Floor, ceiling, and roof framing members can be selected and edited in a floor plan view.

If you don't see particular framing members in the view, the layer(s) the framing is on may be turned off. Navigate to Tools> Display Options and toggle on the display of any framing layers you would like to see. For more information on working with layers please see the [Related Articles](#).


2. Rafters, trusses, joists, and wall framing can be created using the various Framing tools, accessible by

navigating to **Build> Framing** .

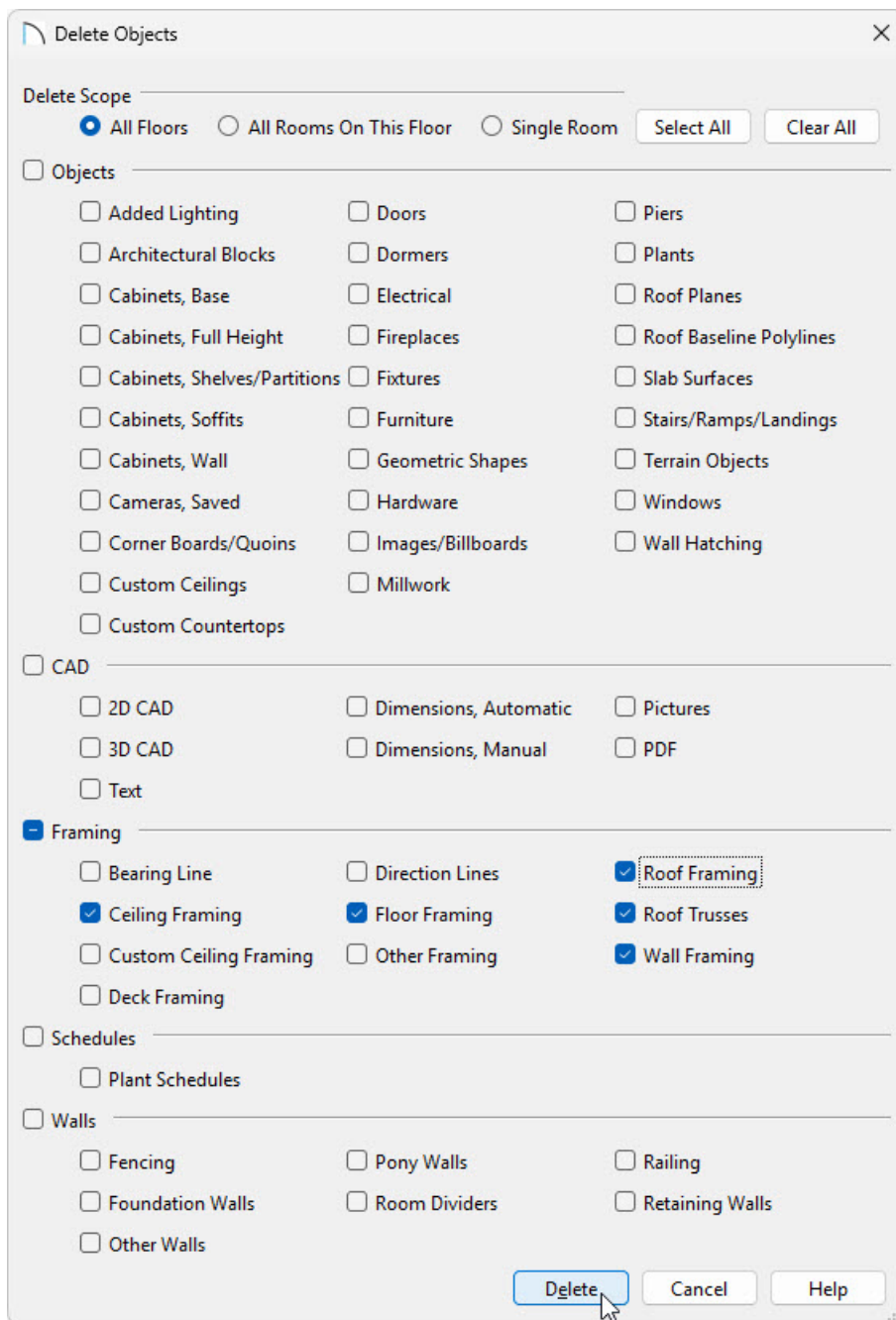
For more information on manually drawing framing members, please see the [Related Articles](#) section below.

Sometimes, it is necessary to make structural changes to a plan that has already been drawn. All framing members can be deleted before new framing defaults are set and new framing members are generated.

To prepare an existing plan for new framing



1. Before making changes that will affect floor, ceiling, and/or roof plane heights, it is recommended that you first delete your framing, including wall framing.
 - Select **Edit> Delete Objects** .
 - Click the radio button beside **All Floors**.
 - Check the boxes beside **Floor Framing**, **Ceiling Framing**, **Roof Framing**, **Roof Trusses** and **Wall Framing**.

You may receive a message stating: "Cannot delete framing while Automatic Framing is on. Do you wish to turn automatic framing off and delete all framing?". Click **Yes** to proceed.



- Click **Delete** to delete the specified framing objects in your plan.

2. It may also be necessary to either raise or delete the existing roof planes.

- To raise the roof planes enough to accommodate changes, hold **Shift** and click on each roof plane that needs to be modified, then click the **Transform/Replicate Object**  edit button.
- In the **Transform/Replicate Object** dialog, check the box beside **Move** and specify the desired distance to raise or lower the roof planes along the **Z Delta**.
- If you would rather delete the roof completely to start over, select **Build> Roof> Delete Roof Planes**  from the menu.

3. It may be beneficial to reset your floor and ceiling heights back to their default values.

- Select **Edit> Reset to Defaults**.

- Click the radio button beside **All Floors**.
 - Check **Floor Heights** and **Ceiling Heights**, then click **OK** to reset the floor and ceiling heights for the rooms on all of your floors back to their floor's default values.
4. Make the needed changes to your plan's structure.
- Begin on the lowest floor and work upwards towards the attic.
 - Remember that changes made to the Framing and Floor Defaults will not affect any rooms that are not using the default values.

For example, rooms with sunken floors should be examined individually and their heights adjusted as needed.

5. When your structural changes are complete, you can now rebuild your framing and, if necessary, your roof.

Related Articles

- 📖 [Changing Joist Directions \(/support/article/KB-02932/changing-joist-directions.html\)](/support/article/KB-02932/changing-joist-directions.html)
- 📖 [Creating an Elevation View of Wall Framing in Home Designer Pro \(/support/article/KB-01188/creating-an-elevation-view-of-wall-framing-in-home-designer-pro.html\)](/support/article/KB-01188/creating-an-elevation-view-of-wall-framing-in-home-designer-pro.html)
- 📖 [Creating and Using Plan Templates \(/support/article/KB-00463/creating-and-using-plan-templates.html\)](/support/article/KB-00463/creating-and-using-plan-templates.html)
- 📖 [Creating Beams in Home Designer Pro \(/support/article/KB-00458/creating-beams-in-home-designer-pro.html\)](/support/article/KB-00458/creating-beams-in-home-designer-pro.html)
- 📖 [Creating Custom Templates from Existing Projects \(/support/article/KB-03094/creating-custom-templates-from-existing-projects.html\)](/support/article/KB-03094/creating-custom-templates-from-existing-projects.html)
- 📖 [Defining a Wall Type in Home Designer \(/support/article/KB-00382/defining-a-wall-type-in-home-designer.html\)](/support/article/KB-00382/defining-a-wall-type-in-home-designer.html)
- 📖 [Manually Drawing Framing Members \(/support/article/KB-00727/manually-drawing-framing-members.html\)](/support/article/KB-00727/manually-drawing-framing-members.html)
- 📖 [Troubleshooting Framing Issues in Home Designer Pro \(/support/article/KB-00401/troubleshooting-framing-issues-in-home-designer-pro.html\)](/support/article/KB-00401/troubleshooting-framing-issues-in-home-designer-pro.html)
- 📖 [Understanding Layers \(/support/article/KB-03183/understanding-layers.html\)](/support/article/KB-03183/understanding-layers.html)