

# TRUSS GLOSSARY

**BEARING** -A structural support, usually a beam or wall that is designed by the building designer to carry truss reaction loads to the foundation.

**BOTTOM CHORD** - Inclined or horizontal member that establishes the bottom of a truss. An example if an inclined bottom chord member is the bottom chord of a scissor truss or a truss positioned between supports at different elevations.

**BUILDING DESIGNER**- A registered architect or registered engineer who is responsible for the design of the building.

**BUTT CUT**- Slight vertical cut at outside edge of truss bottom chord to ensure uniform nominal span and tight joints.

**BUTT JOINT** - The interface at which the end of two members or other members meet in a square cut joint.

**CANTILEVER** - The part of a truss that extends beyond its support, exclusive of overhang.

**CLEAR SPAN**- (Clear opening) Generally indicates the inside or interior frame to frame dimensions. Not to be confused with SPAN.

**CUTTING SHEETS**- A diagram of lumber lengths and angles of cut for truss web members and chords.

**GABLE** - The portion of the roof above the eave line of a double sloped roof.

**GAMBEREL**- A roof having two slopes on each side, the lower slope usually steeper than the upper one.

**GIRDER TRUSS**- A truss designed to carry heavy loads from other structural members framing into it; usually a multiple ply truss.

**JIG**- The fixture which holds the truss in position until rigidly fastened with connectors.

**OVERALL SPAN**- Outside of frame dimensions (not outside of veneer dimensions).

**OVERHANG** - The extension of the top chord of a truss beyond the outside of the bearing support.

**PEAK** - The point on the truss where the sloped chords meet.

**PIGGY BACK TRUSS**- A truss made in two pieces usually consisting of a hip type truss with a triangular cap fastened to it. Designed when shipping or manufacturing limitations are affected by overall truss height.

**PITCH**- The incline angle of the roof described as the ratio of the total rise of the roof to the total width of the structure. For example, a 10 foot rise and a 30 foot width give a roof pitch of one third. The roof pitch is also designated as the angle that the top chord makes with the lower chord such as a 20 pitch or a 45 pitch.

**PLY** - One truss of a girder truss.

**PRESS**- A term used to describe the device used to embed truss connector plates.

**SPAN** - Term generally used to communicate out-to-out span or overall span of a truss design. Sometimes also indicates center line to centerline of bearing.

**TOP PLATE** - Framing consisting of two members on the flat hat form the top of exterior stud bearing walls of platform frame construction; a single member on the flat in non-bearing wall construction.

**TOP CHORD**- An inclined or horizontal member that establishes the top member of a truss.

**TRUSS**- An engineered structural component, assembled from wood members, metal connector plates and other mechanical fasteners, designed to carry its own weight and super imposed design loads. The truss members form a semi-rigid structural framework and are assembled such that the members form triangles.