

Unfamiliar with construction terminology? We've got you! Here are some terms commonly used in framing, roof trusses, and engineered wood floor systems. Don't see what you're looking for? Ask your KOTT Sales Rep!

Blocking

Short wood pieces between framing members to provide support, prevent movement, or offer attachment points for fixtures or finishes.

Chord

The outer members of a truss. The top chord supports the roof deck, and the bottom chord supports ceiling finishes.

Engineered Wood Floor System

A flooring structure made from manufactured wood products such as I-joists or laminated veneer lumber, providing strength and efficiency.

Header

A beam placed over window or door openings to transfer the load to adjacent studs.

I-Joist

An engineered wood product shaped like the capital letter 'I', used in floor and roof framing. It consists of top and bottom flanges made from solid wood, and a web made from oriented strand board. I-joists provide strength, stiffness, and are resistant to warping.

Joist

Horizontal framing members used to support floors or ceilings. Can be made from dimensional lumber or engineered wood.

LVL (Laminated Veneer Lumber)

A high-strength engineered wood product made by bonding thin wood veneers together with adhesives. LVL is commonly used for headers, beams, and rim boards due to its strength and uniformity.

Load-Bearing Wall

A wall that supports structural weight from above, such as floors or roof systems.

OSB (Oriented Strand Board)

An engineered wood panel made by compressing layers of wood strands in specific orientations with adhesives. OSB is commonly used for subfloors, wall sheathing, and roof decking.

Plate

Horizontal framing member at the top and bottom of wall studs. The bottom plate anchors to the floor; the top plate connects to ceiling joists or roof framing.

Plywood

A wood panel made from layers of thin wood veneer glued together with the grain of adjacent layers at right angles. Plywood is used for subflooring, wall sheathing, and roofing due to its strength and stability.

Rim Board

The vertical piece of engineered wood that encloses the ends of floor joists. Provides lateral support and a surface for attaching sheathing.

Roof Truss

A structural framework, typically in a triangular shape, used to support the roof. Made from wood or metal, trusses distribute the roof load to the exterior walls and eliminate the need for interior load-bearing walls. They consist of top chords, bottom chords, and webs forming the triangle.

Sheathing

Panels (plywood or OSB) that cover exterior wall framing or roof trusses, providing structural stability and a base for other materials.

Span

The distance a framing member (such as a joist or truss) covers between supports without bending or failing.

Stud

A vertical framing member in walls. Typically spaced 16 or 24 inches apart and made of dimensional lumber.

Subfloor

The wood panel installed over floor joists to create a base for the finish floor. Usually made of plywood or oriented strand board (OSB).

Web

Internal bracing members connecting the top and bottom chords in a truss. Helps transfer roof loads to the walls.