



Lateral Bracing Requirements



The 2024 BC Building Code (BCBC), which came into effect on March 8, 2024, introduced lateral stability requirements for Part 9 Wood-Frame Construction. These requirements came fully into effect as of March 10, 2025, for all jurisdictions in BC. These changes bring the BCBC in line with the 2020 Canadian National Building Code.

The 2024 BCBC, Section 9.23. "Wood-Frame Construction" expands on concepts of lateral

bracing restraint that were included in the previous 2018 BCBC by widening the use of Braced Wall Bands and Braced Wall Panels within buildings. The changes will allow buildings constructed as dwellings to better withstand lateral forces placed on them by extreme wind or seismic events.

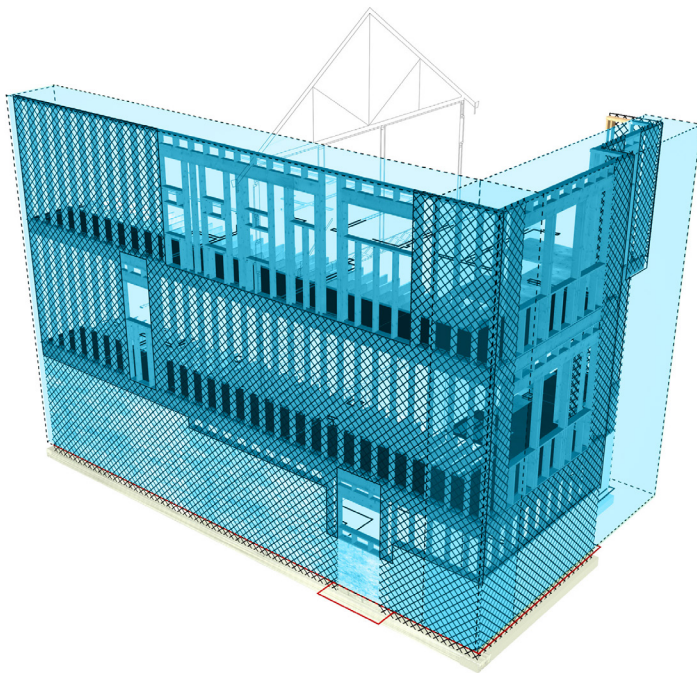
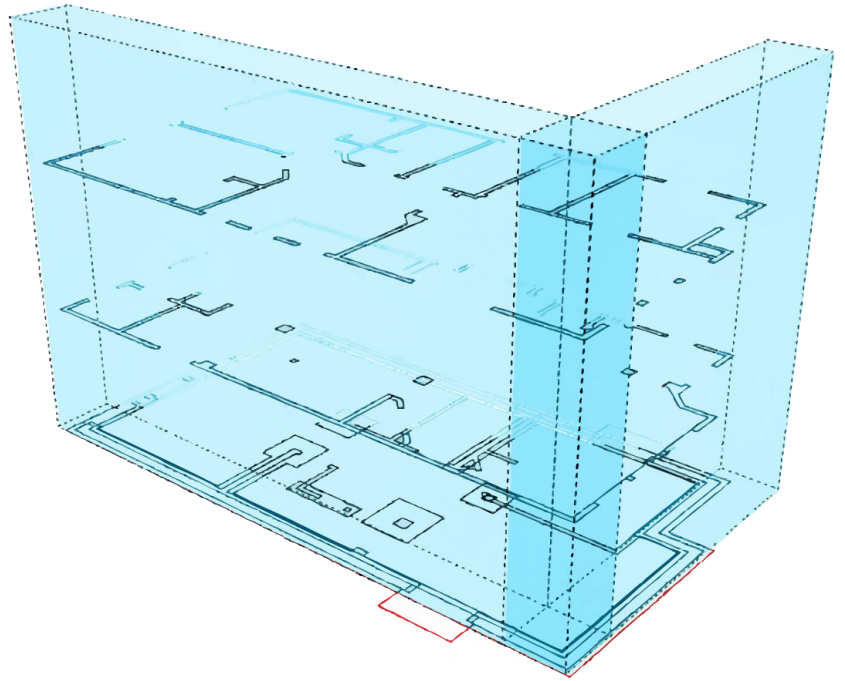
These requirements apply only to new houses and other new dwelling units at this time.

RDBN Planning Department

37 3rd Ave, PO Box 820
Burns Lake, BC V0J 1E0
planning@rdbn.bc.ca
www.rdbn.bc.ca

Call us at: 250-692-3195
Toll free 1-800-320-3339
Fax 250-692-3305

Braced Wall Bands are imaginary continuous bands extending vertically and horizontally around the perimeter, and sometimes through buildings. These “bands” can be up to 1.2m wide, which allow for small offsets or jogs in the walls within each band.



Braced Wall Panels are dedicated portions of the wood-framed walls located within each Braced Wall Band, that are sheathed and fastened to provide required resistance to lateral forces. Total lengths and types of the required Braced Wall Panels can vary based on specific designs and locations. The types of panel materials include:

WSP = Wood Sheathed Panel

GWB = Gypsum Wall Board

DWB = Diagonal Wood Board



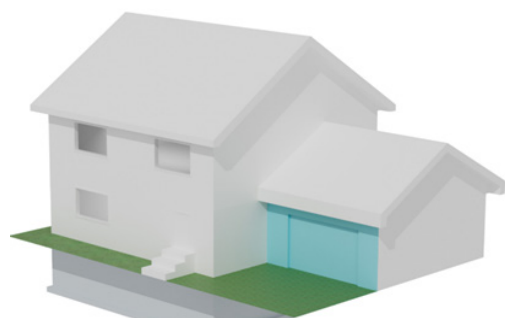
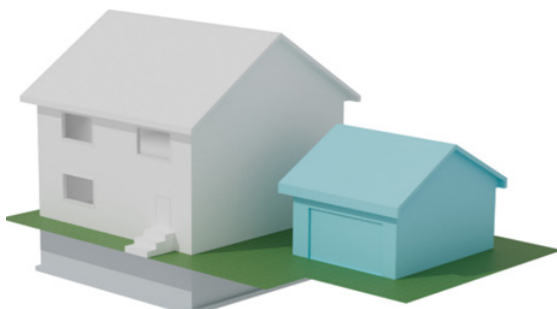
While the BCBC allows several methods of determining the required Braced Wall Panel lengths for a building, due to the high snow loads in the RDBN the approach is limited to the following 2 options:

1. Calculation Approach (9.23.13.4 to 9.23.13.10 2024 BCBC Div B): This method uses a detailed calculation to determine the required length of Braced Wall Panel in a Braced Wall Band based on the specific location and designs of the building. This method can be done within Part 9 of the BCBC and does not require an Engineer but does require some knowledge of the requirements in Section 9.23 so that a detailed lateral bracing plan can be included as part of your Building Permit Application.

2. Structural Design: This involves having the structure designed to Part 4 of the BC Building Code instead of the prescriptive requirements of Part 9. This requires that a BC Registered Professional Engineer (P.Eng) be retained for the project who will provide stamped structural plans, and a Schedule B- "Assurance of Professional Design and Commitment for Field Review". This option has the additional costs associated with having a P.Eng retained for the project, however it does provide much greater flexibility with the building designs. For example, this method can allow for windows that are placed closer to the corners of the building, or for ceiling heights higher than 10 feet.

Exemptions to lateral bracing requirements include the following:

- Small covered decks.
- Detached garages or other storage buildings.
- The front wall of attached garages, providing the wall does not support a floor above.



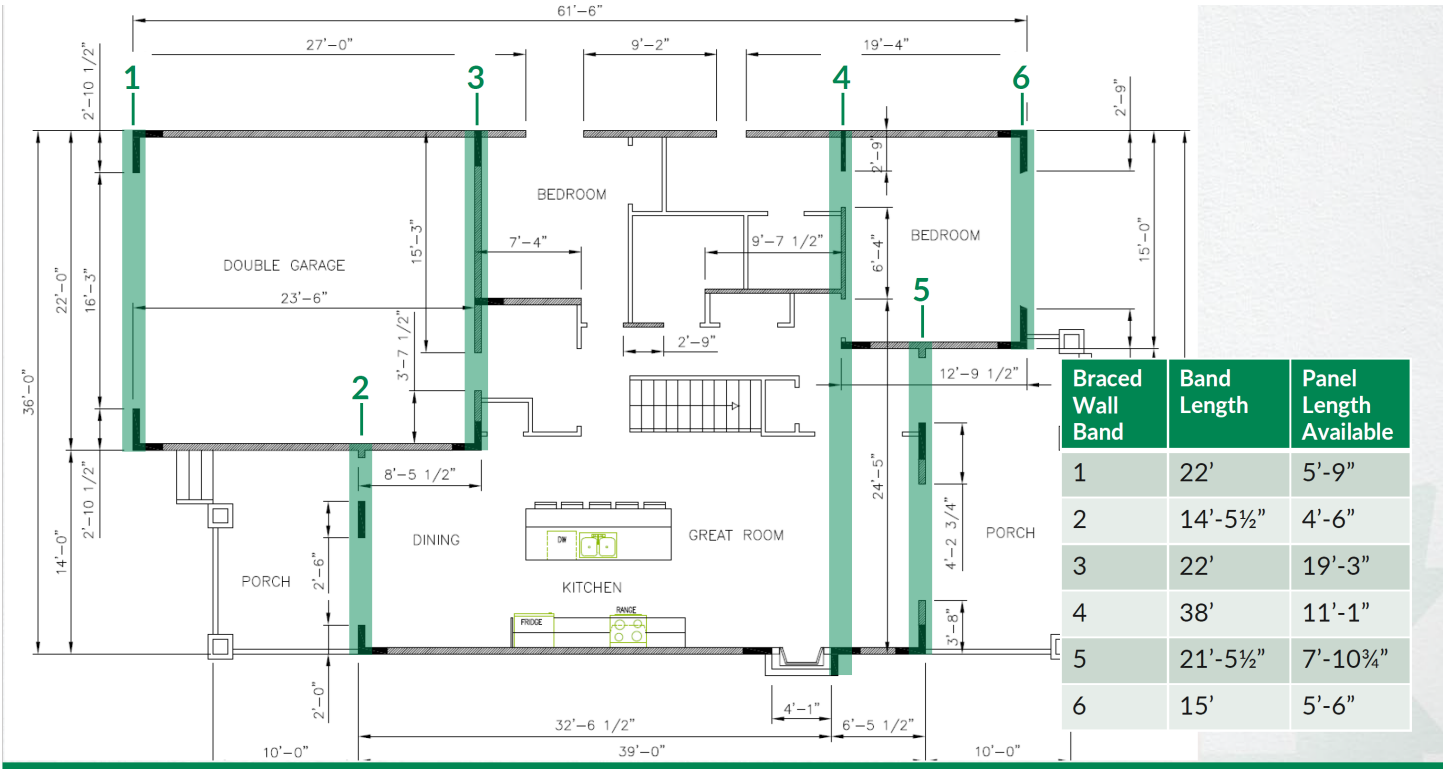
Options for Compliance

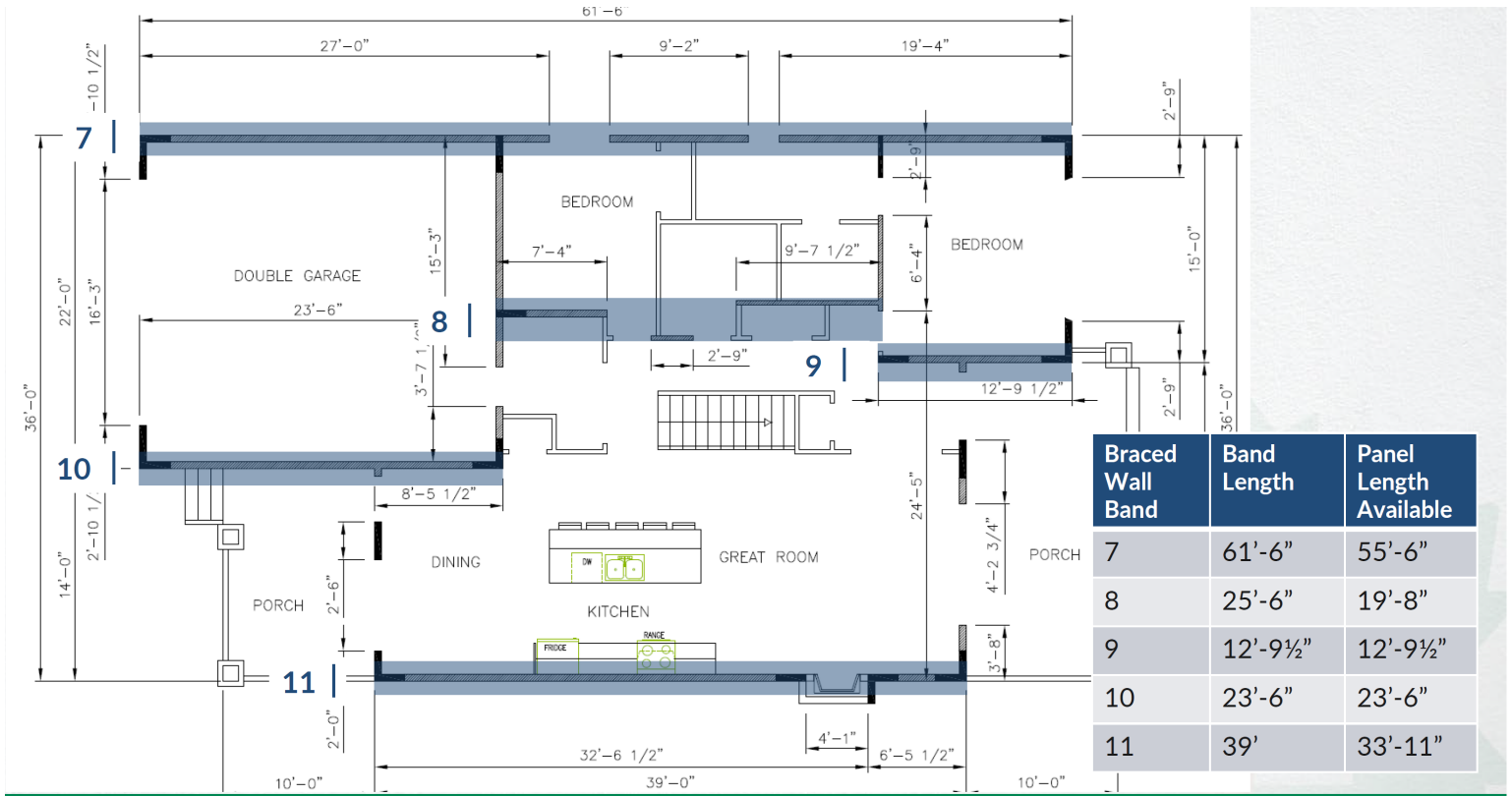
Building permit applications are required to demonstrate compliance with the 9.23. “Wood Frame Construction” requirements. Permits may not be issued until the required Braced Wall Panel information is provided, reviewed, and approved. The three options available to demonstrate compliance are:

Option 1. Ensure that you and/or your designer are familiar with the 2024 BC Building Code requirements and the new Braced Wall Panel requirements in 9.23. and include a lateral bracing plan in your drawing package.

The lateral bracing plan should include notes and hatching which identifies the following:

- The location of Braced Wall Bands for each floor,
- The minimum length of required Braced Wall Panel within each band,
- The length, and construction details of each provided Braced Wall Panel.





A copy of the calculations for each of the Braced Wall Bands should be included in your application for review. These should be in the form of a table that is easily readable

and include all of the variables from the formula for wind found in BCBC 2024 Section 9.23.13.7.(3). The table can be included on the plans or sent separately.

Braced Wall Band Calculations - Floor 1

Band	Type	Luw	Kexp	Kroof	Kwspacing	Kwnumber	Kgyp	Ksheath	Lw (m)	LW (ft/in)	Actual Wall panel
A	WSP-B	0.8	1	1	1	1.43	1	1.15	1.32	4'5"	5'2"
B	GWB-C	1.89	1	1	1	1.43	1	1	2.7	8'10"	9'4"
C	WSP-B	0.8	1	1	1	1.43	1	1.15	1.32	4'5"	8'
D	WSP-B	0.8	1	1	1	1.43	1	1.15	1.32	4'5"	5'4"
E	WSP-B	0.8	1	1	1	1.43	1	1.15	1.32	4'5"	9'
1	WSP-B	0.8	1	1	1	1.38	1	1.15	1.27	4'3"	5'7"
2	WSP-B	0.8	1	1	1	1.38	1	1.15	1.27	4'3"	6'
3	WSP-B	0.8	1	1	1	1.38	1	1.15	1.27	4'3"	7'
4	WSP-B	0.8	1	1	1	1.38	1	1.15	1.27	4'3"	6'

Option 2. Hire a Braced Wall Band designer familiar with the requirements of the 2024 BC Building Code and section 9.23, who can work with you to review your plans and include the lateral bracing information on a set of plans similar to Option 1.



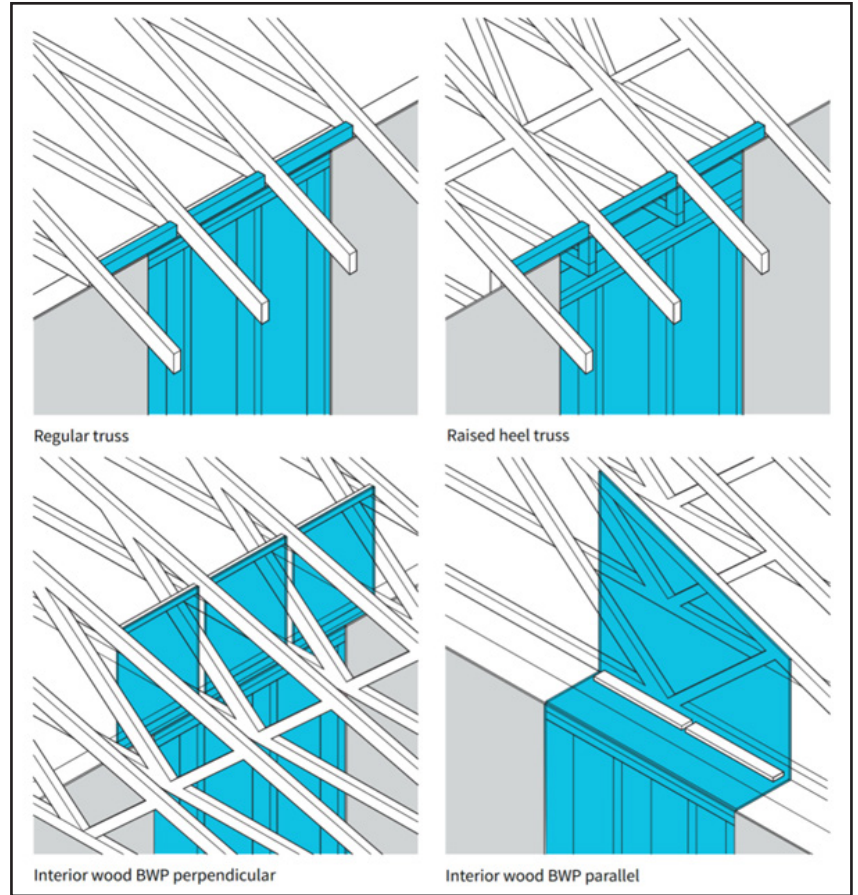
Option 3. Retain a professional engineer licenced in BC (P.Eng) to design the building to Part 4 of the BCBC. This option requires a P.Eng to provide a set of stamped and signed plans along with a signed sealed copy of Schedule B- "Assurance of Professional Design and Commitment for Field Review" for structural. This option does allow for more flexibility with the designs, as they are not required to meet the same prescriptive tables as options 1 & 2. The P.Eng will then conduct field reviews during the project to ensure the structural requirements of the design are being met.



Inspection Requirements

RDBN Building Inspectors will conduct inspections of the lateral bracing during the framing inspection, unless an engineer has provided a Schedule B for structural and has provided signed sealed drawings for the walls. All Braced Wall Panels should be easily differentiated from the rest of the wall by vertical rather than horizontal sheathing. Any joints in the sheathing that are not on a stud or header should be structurally supported with blocking. Sheathing nailing for these sections will need to be visible during the inspection, so ensure that no house wrap or exterior insulation has been applied to the exterior sheathing until the framing inspection has been approved. Additional anchor bolts are also required for the Braced Wall Panels, so ensure they are visible or that photo documentation is available.

A separate inspection for any gypsum covered Braced Wall Panels may need to be scheduled after the framing inspection if required. It is important to note that gypsum covered Braced Wall Panels may need to be connected with roof framing to facilitate truss uplift and prevent the gypsum board from cracking. See Note A.-9.23.13.5.(3) and (4) for connection details.



Please direct any questions about Lateral Bracing requirements to the RDBN Building Inspectors. More information can also be found in the free PDF from BC Housing “*Lateral Bracing Requirements – Part 9 of the BC Building Code 2024*” available at:

www.bchousing.org/sites/default/files/media/documents/Illustrated-Guide-Lateral-Bracing-Requirements-Part-9-BC-Building-Code-2024.pdf



RDBN Planning Department

37 3rd Ave, PO Box 820
Burns Lake, BC V0J 1E0
planning@rdbn.bc.ca
www.rdbn.bc.ca

Call us at: 250-692-3195
Toll free 1-800-320-3339
Fax 250-692-3305