



**DASMA**  
Door & Access Systems  
Manufacturers Association  
International

COMMERCIAL & RESIDENTIAL GARAGE DOOR DIVISION

# TECHNICAL DATA SHEET

## #156

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## Wood Horizontal and Vertical Back Jamb Detail Guidelines

The primary structural requirements for a garage door are adequate support for:

- the weight of the door, track and spring assemblies
- torque generated by the counterbalance system
- wind load forces; and
- vibration caused by door operation.

DASMA has created guidelines for one method to provide mounting surfaces for door components used in residential building structures. Other methods may be recommended by manufacturers. While the members of DASMA do not endorse any particular type of building material construction, they are concerned that adequate building frame structural requirements be met and have noted that wood framing historically has been used commonly in residential construction.

These guidelines should be useful as follows:

- Architect/Engineer/Specifier – when preparing house plans and specifications, or when the situation requires an analysis of the building frame.
- Builders/Contractors – when constructing or renovating a structure, in the absence of an A/E/S.
- Distributors – have on hand to make available to dealers.
- Dealers – have available for new or retrofitted door installations.
- Consumers – use as part of installation instructions accompanying door packages sold through retail businesses.

This document is intended to provide guidance:

- for noting the structural condition of an existing building framing system;
- for noticing construction conditions that would affect installation (where required to be flush, level, plumb, and square; appropriate dimensions; presence of wall coverings, etc.)

Garage door manufacturers are at the heart of the process of preparing and using a specification sheet for their products. They can provide the necessary information on a per product basis, or on a case specific basis, if required. They would then make available the information to the other parties involved.

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**Note: Technical Data Sheets are information tools only and should not be used as substitutes for instructions from individual manufacturers. Always consult with individual manufacturers for specific recommendations for their products and check the applicable local regulations.**

This Technical Data Sheet was prepared by the members of DASMA's Commercial & Residential Garage Door Division Technical Committee. DASMA is a trade association comprising manufacturers of rolling doors, fire doors, grilles, counter shutters, sheet doors, and related products; upward-acting residential and commercial garage doors; operating devices for garage doors and gates, sensing devices, and electronic remote controls for garage doors and gate operators; as well as companies that manufacture or supply either raw materials or significant components used in the manufacture and installation of the Active Members' products.

It is essential that all parties associated with garage door applications recognize the contribution of the framing system and building materials, including appropriate connections, to the structural integrity of a garage door system, and the importance of a framing system that is appropriately dimensioned to allow for adequate installation and operation.

### IMPORTANT NOTES

- If there are any questions concerning the structural integrity of a building framing system, the members of DASMA strongly advise that only a trained door systems technician or a qualified design professional be contacted to assess the situation.
- The local building official shall be the sole and final determiner of the suitability of a particular application from a code enforcement standpoint.
- Large commercial or industrial garage doors may require more support than what is indicated herein. Contact the door manufacturer for details.

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## **Door & Access Systems Manufacturers Association International (DASMA) Wood Horizontal and Vertical Back Jamb Detail Guideline**

1. New Vertical and Horizontal Door Jamb
  - a. Structurally sound wood material.
2. Existing Vertical and Horizontal Door Jamb
  - a. Check method and integrity of attachment to building frame.
  - b. Check if wood is solid.
  - c. Check if wood is decayed.
  - d. Check if plumb/level, square and flush.
3. New Torsion Spring Pad
  - a. Structurally sound wood material.
  - b. Shall be free of cracks, splits and knots in the area of attachment fasteners.
4. Existing Torsion Spring Pad
  - a. Check method and integrity of attachment to building frame.
  - b. Check if wood is solid.
  - c. Check if wood is decayed.
  - d. Check if plumb, square, and flush with inside surface of Horizontal Back Jamb.
5. Vertical Door Jamb General Guidelines
  - a. When a separate wood jamb is installed for door attachment, recommended minimum size is 2 x 6.
  - b. Shall be plumb, square and flush with Horizontal Door Jamb.
  - c. Shall extend from the floor to the ceiling or to the manufacturer's recommended height.  
  
Note: Vertical back jambs shall extend to within ½ inch (12.7 mm) of finished floor.
6. Horizontal Door Jamb General Guidelines
  - a. Shall be level, square and flush with Jambs.
7. Torsion Spring Pad(s) General Guidelines
  - a. When a separate wood pad is installed for spring attachments, recommended minimum size is 2 x 6.
  - b. Shall be plumb, square, and flush with inside surface of horizontal jamb.
  - c. Large doors may require multiple spring pads.

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8. Attachment to Building Frame
  - a. Shall provide adequate support to sustain the weight of the door, tracks and spring assemblies.
  - b. Torsion spring fasteners shall provide adequate support to sustain the stored energy in a spring assembly.
  - c. Shall provide adequate resistance to wind load forces.
  - d. DASMA TDS-161 should be consulted for appropriate fastener guidelines to use in a particular installation.

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