Chapter 29: Commercial Girts

Most Common Mistakes:

1. Installing wall girts before framing roof and roofing.
2. Placing bottom of first girt at a height other than 27-1/2" above grade.
3. Girt end blocks not cut to same length.
4. Not setting girts to project beyond outside of columns by 1-1/2".

Commercial girts are similar to wind girts. Please review **Chapter 19**. In this case, they are spaced 24" o.c. to allow for future wall insulation batts to be installed. Typically also included with commercial girts is a 2x4 pressure treated bottom plate (or mud sill) as well as 2x4 backing for drywall at ceiling line.

More girt rows may be ADDED to the Wind Girt design to create Commercial Girts without any negative structural effect on building. If so, order additional screws from **Hansen Buildings**.

Cut girt blocks to 22-7/16" lengths from 2x4 material provided. First girt block bottom edge starts 5-1/2" above skirt board bottom. After concrete floor has been poured, a 2x4 pressure treated mud sill will be inserted between floor top and girt block bottoms. Mud sill is toe-nailed to pressure treated post at each end, as well as anchored to concrete floor two feet o.c. (using concrete nails or nails which can be "shot" into concrete.) When space between treated columns is less than 24", there is no mud sill.

Girt blocks are placed so as inside edge of block is flush with inside edge of wall girt. This may cause girts, as well as blocking, to be inside of face of column interior edge. Nail girt block with (2) 10d nails at each end (unless specified otherwise on building plans).

Cut girt to fit snugly between columns, with “crown” out, resting on girt blocking at each end. Outside girt edge extends from columns outward 1-1/2”. **See Figure 29-1**

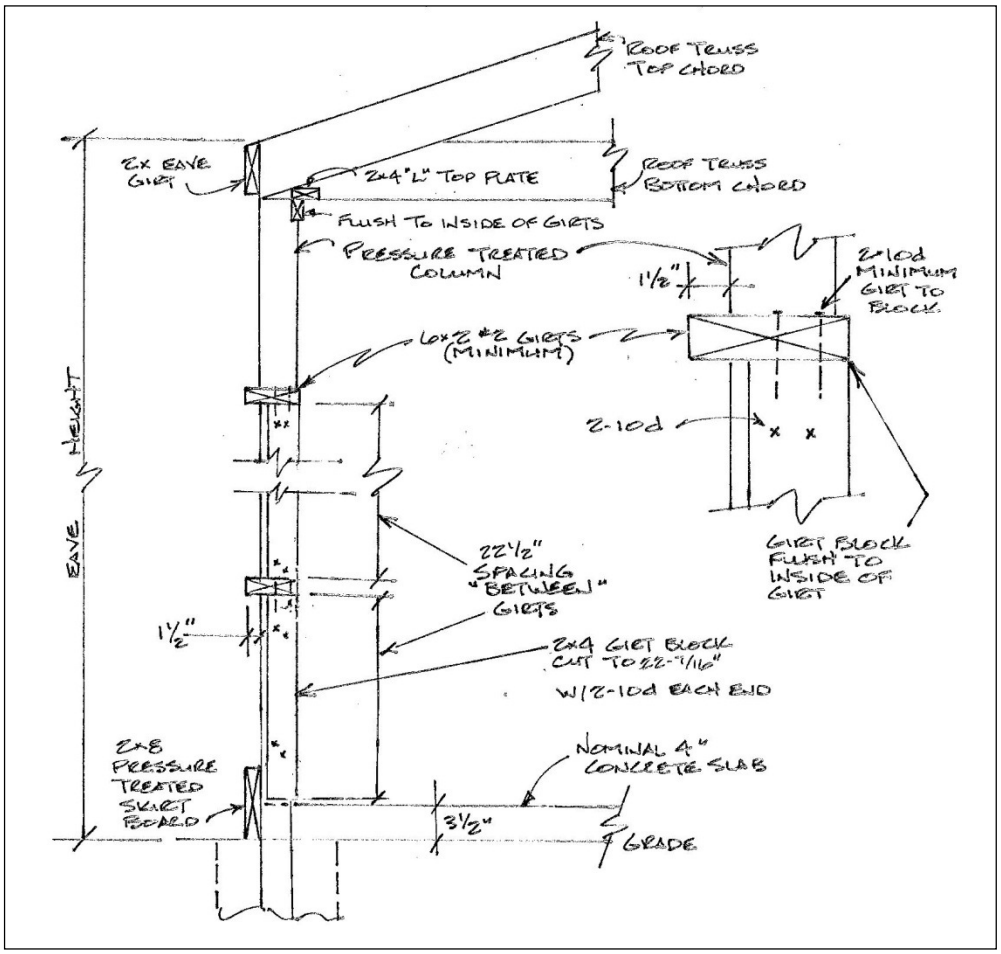

Figure 29-1

Nail each girt end securely into top of girt blocks below, with a minimum of two 10d nails. Repeat for each bay around building.

Where two adjacent wall columns are 2’ or less in between, 2x4 flat (barn style) girts will be provided to nail on outside column faces, as insulation batts will fill space remaining.

Nail 2x blocking material to exterior column faces in line with girts. This a good way to use up cutoffs from wind girts. **See Figure 29-2.**

This blocking will serve as backing material for any screws which will fall in this area.

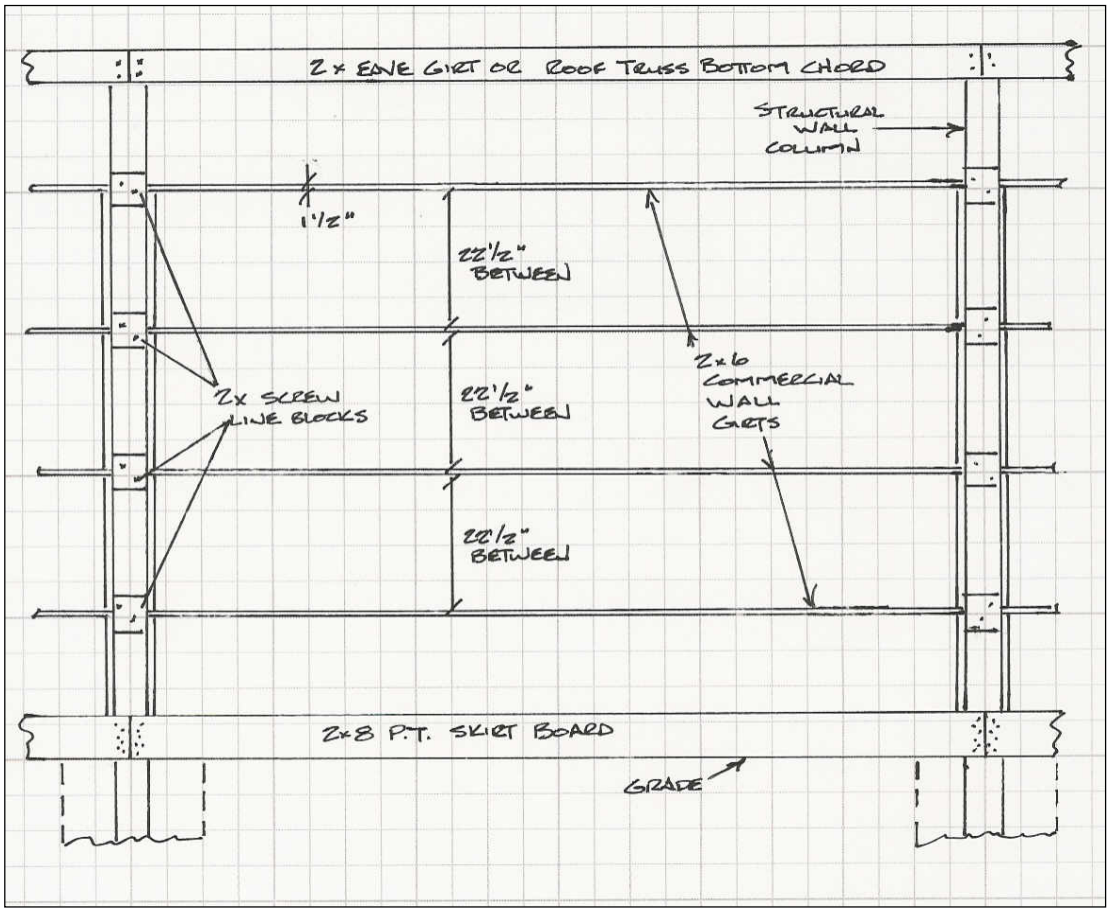

Figure 29-2

Install 2x4 inverted “L” sidewall drywall backing. **See Figure 29-3.** The 4” shown in Figure 29-3 is for 2x6 girts, for 2x8 girts, it will be 5-3/4”.

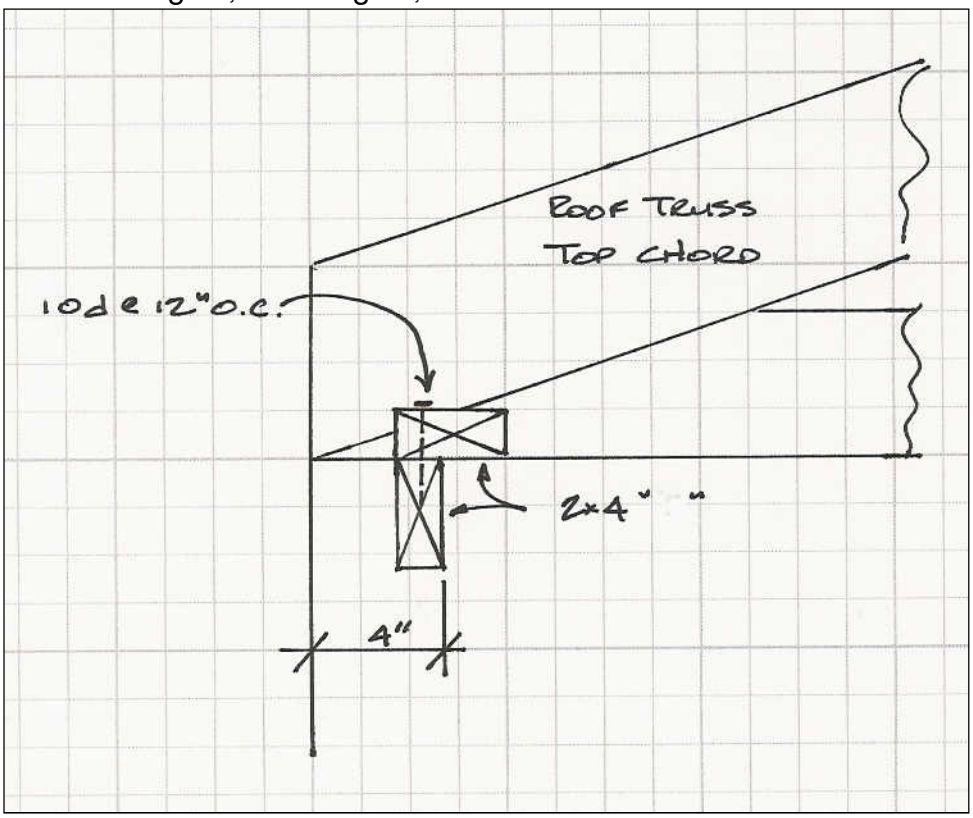

Figure 29-3

If building does NOT have ceiling joists, install 2x4 inverted “L” endwall drywall backing. **See Figure 29-4.**

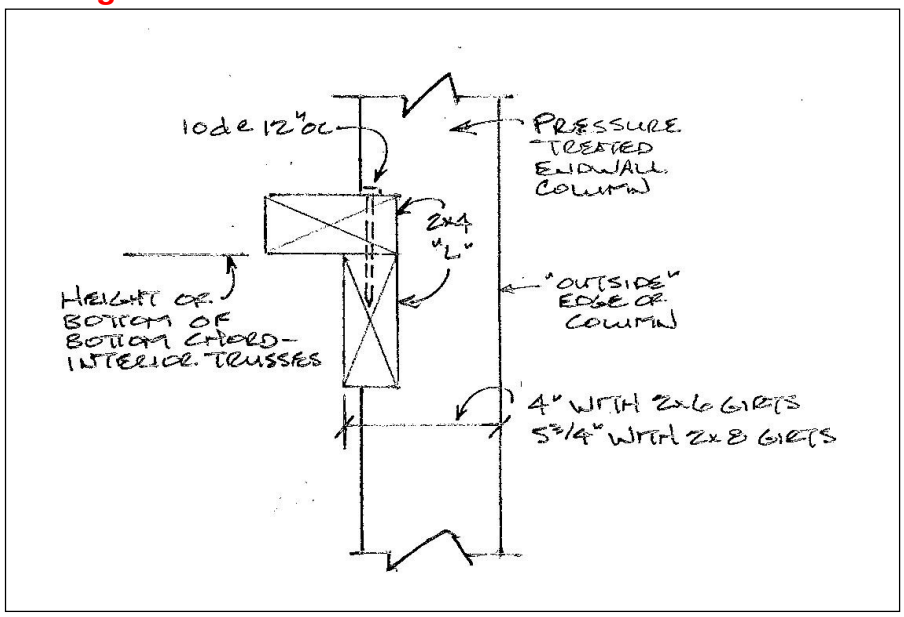

Figure 29-4