



# HOUSING

## Drawing a floorplan

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### Quick Facts...

Knowing how to draw a floorplan can be helpful if a family is going to build a new home, remodel the present home or rearrange interior furnishings.

First take accurate measurements of the space, including projections and recesses.

Locate all elements that might be difficult or expensive to remove.

Measure doors, windows, and other items and note on the floorplan.

Use an architect's scale for the final drawing--it is a scale divided into twelfths.

Arrange and rearrange cutouts of furnishings on the final floorplan until you reach a desired design.

The "know-how" of drawing a floorplan is, with a little patience, easy to learn and can prove beneficial for several projects.

If you are thinking about building a new home, your ability to communicate your family's needs and wants to an architect or contractor will be greatly enhanced if you have a method of expressing your ideas.

If you are thinking of remodeling your present home, a simple floorplan will help you not only share your ideas with others (i.e. the contractor) but also to see the physical relationships between the existing house and the proposed changes.

A floorplan enables you and those doing the construction work to more accurately estimate needed materials and labor costs. And even if you are not contemplating new construction or structural changes, a floorplan of a room or series of rooms is a valuable tool in arranging your family's furnishings. It is much easier to move a pencil than an object of furniture.

Once completed, a floorplan with the addition of furniture cutouts will enable you to see the relationships among pieces of furnishings to the space, and the relationships among pieces of furniture within a space, as well as the relationships between adjacent spaces.

## Drawing A Floorplan

Drawing a floorplan can be done easily if you are organized and methodic in measuring and recording the information you need. The basic tools needed are a steel tape measure, graph paper (scaled to 1/4" = 1') or white paper, pencils, sharpener and eraser and a ruler or other straight edge. Follow the sequence below.

1. Before using the tape measure, sketch the outline of the floor of the structure to be measured (see Figure 1. Be sure to include all projections and recesses of the structure; indicate all windows and doors and the direction of the door-swings. Make the sketch as large as the sheet of paper will allow so there is room to write in the legible dimensions. For uniform symbols of different types of walls, doors, windows and electrical outlets, see Figure 5.

2. Now you are ready to begin measuring. Take all measurements accurately and consistently. For most purposes, accuracy need only be to the nearest half-inch, such as a measurement of 8 feet 7-1/4 inches would be recorded as 8 feet 7 inches. Eight feet 5/8 inches would be recorded as 8 feet 1/2 inch. The first measurements taken should be the overall dimensions of the structure. **Never** arrive at these dimensions by adding up a string of room sizes and partition thicknesses. Measure separately as a check to these smaller sizes.

3. The second set of measurements are the dimensions of the projections, recesses, windows, doors and door-swings. (See Figure 2.)

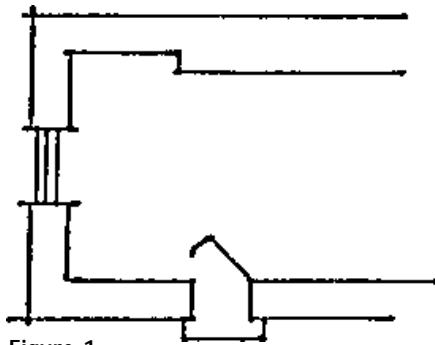


Figure 1.

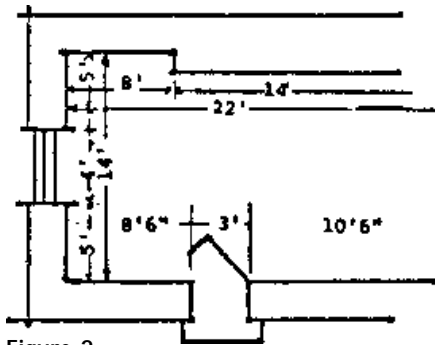


Figure 2.

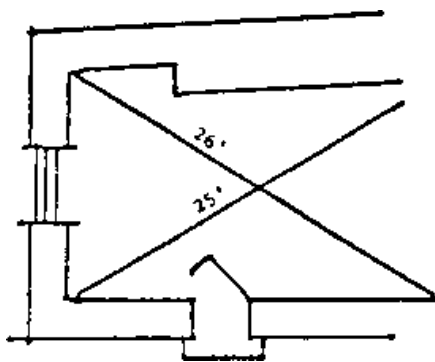


Figure 3.

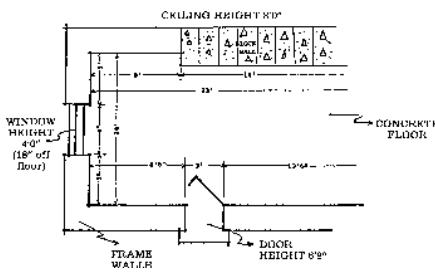


Figure 4.

4. More common than many people would suspect, all structures and rooms do not have square (90-degree or right-angled) corners. These irregularities may be due to inconsistent building practices, irregular sites, or the settling of the structure. If you think that the room may not be square, check it by taking diagonal measurements. (See Figure 3.) If the measurements are not identical, record these so that as the remainder of the measurements are taken and the floorplan is drawn, the shape of the structure (or room) will accurately reflect the irregularities. (See Figure 4.)

5. Note all elements that might be difficult or expensive to remove, such as chimney flues, pipes, etc., and accurately locate these on the floorplan. Note structural walls and do not confuse with extra-thick partitions used for pipe spaces or pocket sliding doors.

6. Note heights of ceilings, doors, windows and window sills around the edges of the sketch with arrows pointing to the related item.

7. In drawing up the final rough floorplan, be sure to use a rule that is subdivided into twelfths rather than tenths. (An architect's scale is twelfths; an engineer's scale is tenths.)

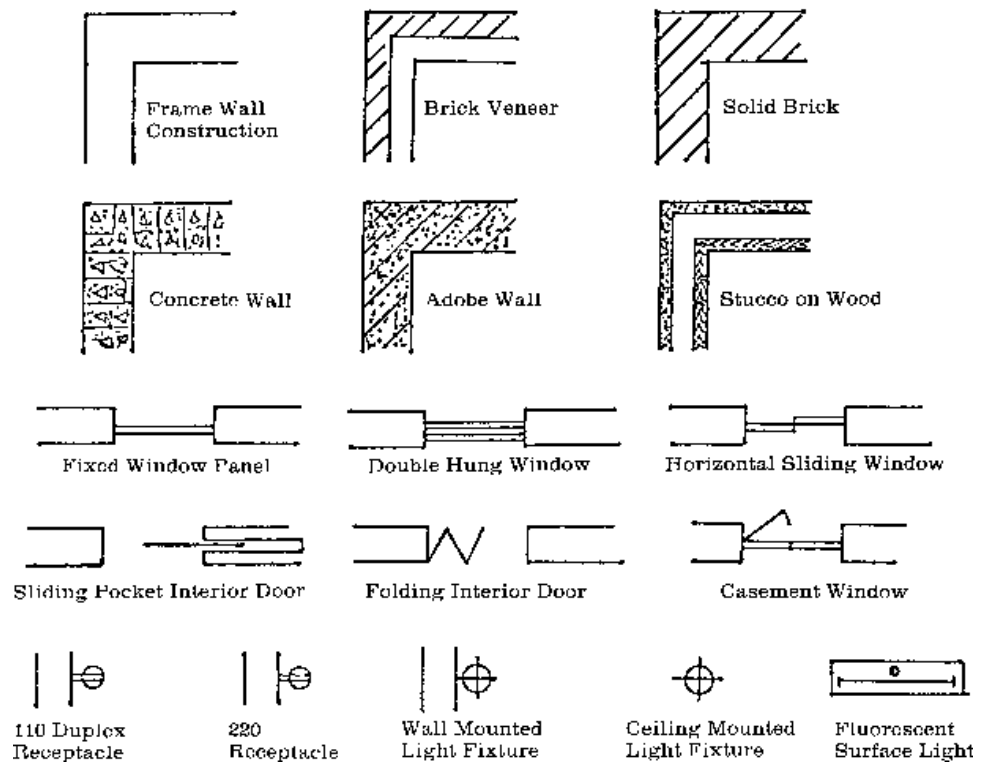


Figure 5. : Common drafting symbols.

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