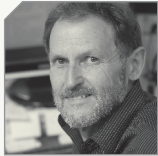




# Trimming studs



**BY TOM EDHOUSE,**  
BRANZ TECHNICAL  
ADVISOR

KNOWING THE RIGHT SIZE TRIMMING STUDS TO USE IS EASY ONCE YOU KNOW YOUR WAY ROUND THE TABLES IN NZS 3604:2011. HERE, WE TAKE YOU ON A TOUR.

### NZS 3604:2011 TIMBER-FRAMED BUILDINGS

includes the requirements that trimming studs:

- are to be the same width as the wall studs, i.e. if the wall studs are 90 mm wide, the trimming studs must also be 90 mm wide
- whether single or built up with multiple studs must have no holes or notches in the middle third of the height of the stud
- cannot include a doubling stud supporting a lintel that is more than 400 mm shorter than the wall studs.

### Details of example

We are going to work through an example to show how to select the correct size of trimming studs. The specific details to be used (see Figure 1) are:

- single or top storey
- extra high wind zone
- maximum of 2.7 m stud length
- loaded dimension = 6 m
- stud spacing = 600 mm centres
- opening maximum = 3.3 m
- light roof.

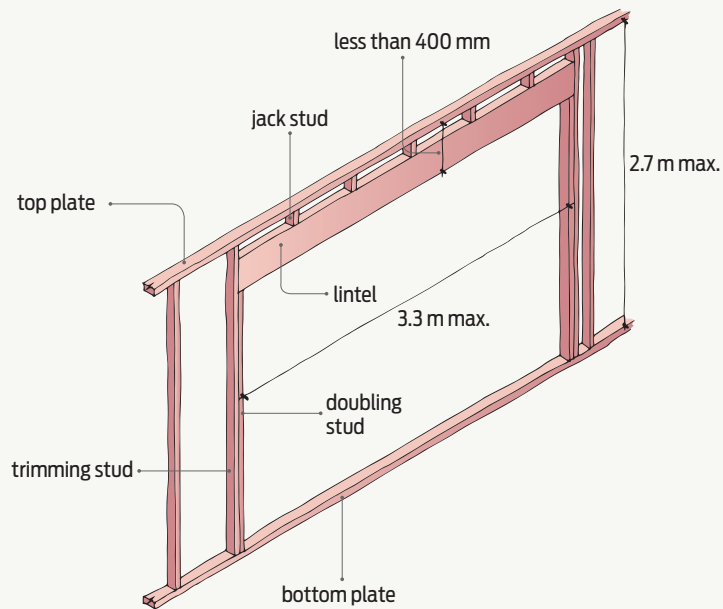
### Step 1 – Lintel size

Use NZS 3604:2011 Table 8.9 Lintel supporting roof only for all wind zones to determine the lintel size for the span and to make sure what is proposed is within the scope of NZS 3604:2011.

In this example, a light roof with loaded dimension of 6 m requires a 290 x 90 mm lintel to span an opening of 3.3 m (see Figure 2).

### Step 2 – Wall stud thickness

Now go to Table 8.2 to determine the wall stud thickness required. This information is required to calculate the trimming stud size in Table 8.5.



**Figure 1** Example – lintel supporting roof only.

Loaded dimension* of lintel (m)	Maximum span for lintel sizes listed below (m)									
	width x thickness (mm)									
	90 x 70	90 x 90	140 x 70	140 x 90	190 x 70	190 x 90	240 x 70	240 x 90	290 x 70	290 x 90
Light roof	2	1.2	1.4	2.0	2.1	2.7	2.9	3.4	3.6	4.0
	3	1.1	1.2	1.7	1.9	2.4	2.6	3.0	3.3	3.7
	4	1.0	1.1	1.5	1.8	2.1	2.4	2.7	3.1	3.2
Heavy roof	6	0.8	1.0	1.3	1.6	1.8	2.1	2.2	2.7	3.3
	2	1.0	1.0	1.5	1.6	2.1	2.3	2.6	2.9	3.2
	3	0.9	0.9	1.4	1.5	1.9	2.0	2.4	2.6	2.9
	4	0.8	0.9	1.3	1.4	1.7	1.9	2.2	2.4	2.6
	6	0.7	0.8	1.1	1.2	1.5	1.7	1.9	2.1	2.3

\* Loaded dimension is defined in figure 1.3.  
NOTE – Members 70 mm and 90 mm thick may be substituted with built-up members sized and nailed in accordance with 2.4.4.7.

**Figure 2** NZS 3604:2011 Table 8.9. Provided by Standards New Zealand under licence 001080.

