



BALTIMORE

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Felt Tips

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DIMENSIONING - HOW SHOULD IT BE DONE?

Somehow this aspect of document preparation is often taken for granted. However, much embarrassment has been caused because of poor dimensioning.

Consider the following:

- * Give the dimension that will have the man in the field do as little adding and subtracting as possible.
 - * Dimension to face of materials that are easily recognized. Imaginary center lines are difficult to establish and impossible to find after a partition is in place.
 - * Provide door and window schedules that will allow you to ignore the width of these items on the plans (Example: given a door width of 3'-0" on the plans and having the same door, scheduled as a 4'-0" door. (It's a common mistake, believe me!))
 - * Locate doors and windows to the rough opening of the jamb.
 - * Don't run strings of dimension through the plans. If it's more than five dimensions, it will rarely agree with the overall dimension.
 - * Establish and publish design standard for locating doors, windows, reveals and all those other intricacies of design detail.
- Coordinate thickness of material with the specifications. How many times have you changed the thickness of items on the drawing? It's easier to say, insulation, porous fill, brick, drywall, etc. These things are highly repetitive, and usually uniform throughout the project. If a thickness of material changes, it's much easier to change the specification, than trying to erase all those thickness indications on the drawings.
- * Keep it simple, don't use fractions. (The guy using the drawing usually doesn't understand all those little marks between the inch signs.)
 - * Don't give partition thickness in your dimensioning. Use a wall construction schedule for thickness. (More about this item in future Felt Tips.)