

Technical Guidance

Diagonal bracing to trussed rafters



Question

Does the diagonal bracing to trussed rafters need to be fixed to the wall plate?

Considerations

- Diagonal bracing is provided to triangulate the roof structure and provide resistance to the lateral forces acting on the roof members.
- The Trussed Rafter Association technical handbook says that the diagonal bracing should be fixed to the wall plate.
- BS 5268 : Part 3 'Code of practice for trussed rafter roofs' refers to the bracing being fixed to the wall plate.
- BRE good building guide No. 8 describes methods of fixing the bracing to the wall plate.
- NHBC Standards clause 7.2 - D5(c) says diagonal bracing should be fixed to wall plate.

Answer

The diagonal bracing should be fixed to the wall plate.

- Where possible the bracing may extend over the wall plate and be fixed with two nails, or
- If the bracing cannot extend over the wall plate it can be cut on a splay and fixed to the top of the wall plate with a 30 x 5mm bent galvanised steel strap, twice nailed to each member.