

RESIDENTIAL FIREBLOCKING

This handout is intended only as a guide and is based on the 2015 International Residential Code. Responsibility for compliance with applicable codes and ordinances falls on the owner or contractor. For specific questions regarding code requirements, refer to the applicable codes or contact the City of Ames, Inspections Division.

FIREBLOCKING is intended to block the spread of fire from one concealed space to another.

- Fireblocking shall be installed and inspected as part of the framing inspection.

Improper fireblocking is a common reason for inspection failure. Fireblocking is required and shall be installed as listed below prior to the installation of any wall covering material.

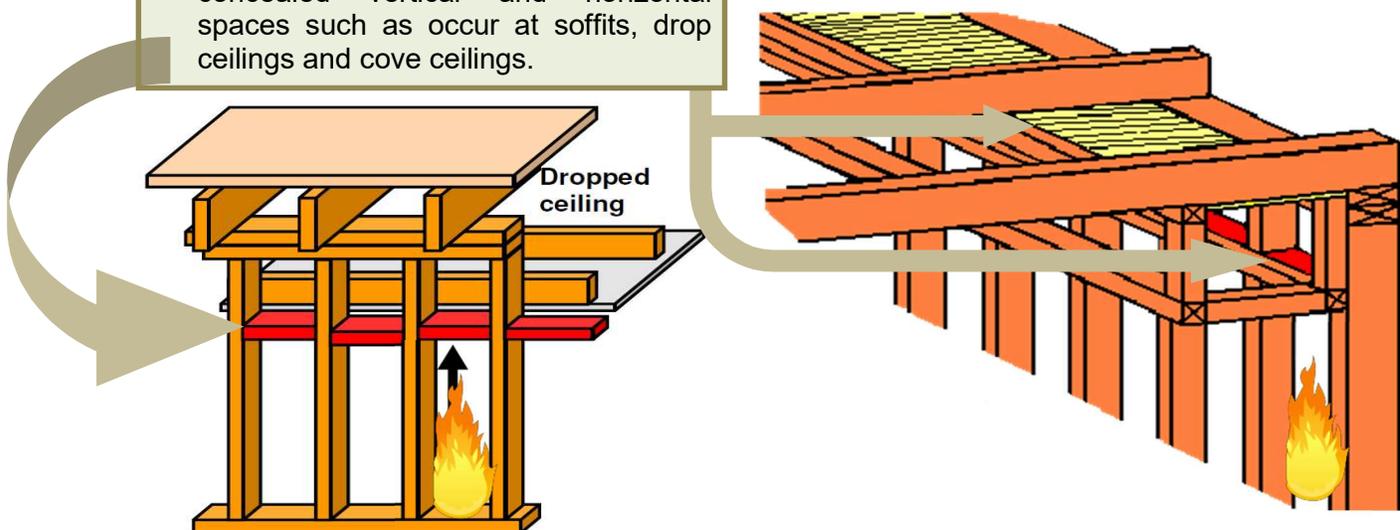
- **R302.11 Fireblocking:** In combustible construction, fireblocking shall be provided to cut off both vertical and horizontal concealed draft openings and to form an effective fire barrier between stories, and between a top story and the roof space. Fireblocking shall be provided in wood-frame construction in the following locations:

1. In concealed spaces of stud walls and partitions, including furred spaces (**open space between foundation wall and framed wall**) and parallel rows of studs or staggered studs, as follows:

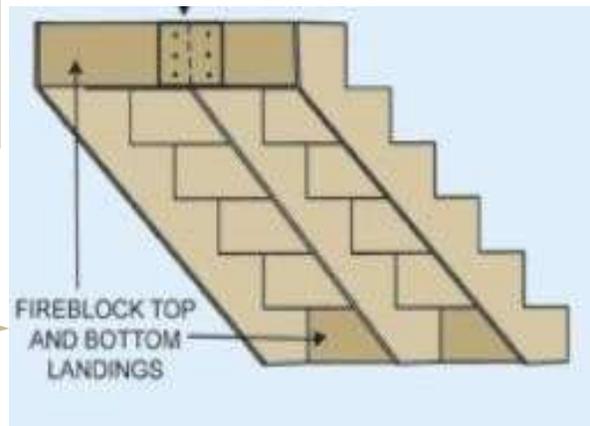
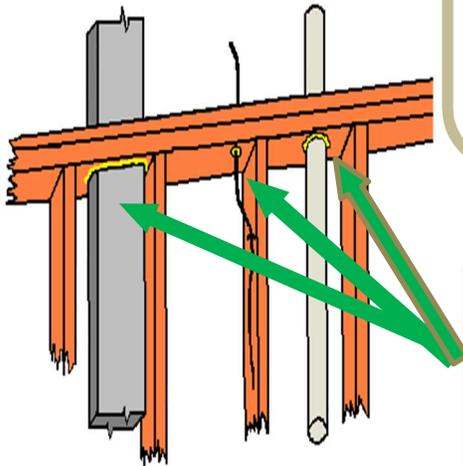
1.1 Vertically at the ceiling and floor levels.

1.2 Horizontally at intervals not exceeding 10 feet

2. At all interconnections between concealed vertical and horizontal spaces such as occur at soffits, drop ceilings and cove ceilings.



3. In concealed spaces between stair stringers at the top and bottom of the run. Enclosed spaces under stairs shall comply with Section R302.7.



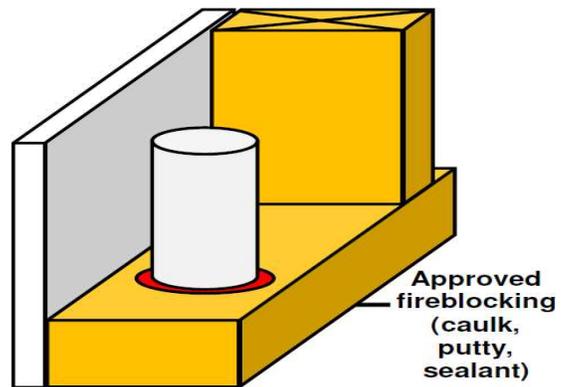
4. At openings around vents, pipes, ducts, cables and wires at ceiling and floor level, with an approved material to resist the free passage of flame and products of combustion. The material filling this annular space shall not be required to meet the ASTM E 136 requirements.

5. For the fireblocking of chimneys and fireplaces, see Section R1003.19.

6. Fireblocking of cornices of a two-family dwelling is required at the line of dwelling unit separation.

□ **R302.11.1 Fireblocking materials.** Except as provided in Section R302.11, Item 4, fireblocking shall consist of the following materials.

1. Two-inch nominal lumber.
2. Two thicknesses of 1-inch nominal lumber with broken lap joints.
3. One thickness of 23/32-inch wood structural panels with joints backed by 23/32- inch wood structural panels.
4. One thickness of 3/4-inch particleboard with joints backed by 3/4-inch particleboard.
5. One-half-inch gypsum board.
6. One-quarter-inch cement-based millboard.
7. Batts or blankets of mineral wool or glass fiber or other approved materials installed in such a manner as to be securely retained in place.
8. Cellulose insulation installed as tested in accordance with ASTM E 119 or UL 263, for the specific application.



□ **302.11.1.2 Unfaced fiberglass** batt insulation used as fireblocking shall fill the entire cross section of the wall cavity to a minimum height of 16 inches measured vertically. Where piping, conduit or similar obstructions are encountered, the insulation shall be packed tightly around the obstruction.

Other materials such as caulking or spray foams shall be an approved fire block.

INSPECTIONS

Fireblocking is typically inspected at the time of the framing inspection and should be complete at that time.