

INFORMAL CODE INTERPRETATION

NC Department of Insurance
Office of the State Fire Marshal - Engineering Division
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Drilling Middle Two-Tenths of Floor Joists

Code: 2012 Residential Code

Date: July 3, 2012

Section: R502.8

Question:

Can a hole be drilled in the middle two-tenths of a floor joist span where the maximum diameter of the hole is one-third the depth of the member and less than 3-5/8"?

Answer:

Yes. As long as the other requirements of Section R502.8.1 and R502.8.2 are met, you can drill a hole in the middle two-tenths of the span. For solid sawn lumber the edge of the hole must be a minimum of 2" from the edge of the lumber, 2" from other holes, and 2" from any notches.

Limitations on hole diameters are:

2x6 1-13/16"

2x8 2-3/8"

2x10 3-1/16"

Key Words:

girders, solid lumber