

# Builder Tip

## STUD WALL REINFORCEMENT FOR FUTURE GRAB BARS IN DWELLING UNITS (HOUSING)

### ONTARIO BUILDING CODE

#### 9.5.2.3. Stud Wall Reinforcement

- (1) If wood wall studs or sheet wall studs enclose the main bathroom in a dwelling unit, reinforcement shall be installed to permit the future installation of the following:
  - (a) for a water closet, a grab bar described in Clauses 3.8.3.8.(3)(a) and a grab bar described in Clause 3.8.3.8.(3)(c),
  - (b) for a shower, a grab bar described in Clause 3.8.3.13.(2)(f), and
  - (c) for a bathtub, a grab bar described in Clause 3.8.3.13.(4)(c).

### OBJECTIVE

The provision for future attachment of grab bars in the main bathroom of a residential occupancy, including houses, requires the installation of suitable blocking in the stud wall. Sentence 9.31.2.3.(1) specifies that when grab bars are provided, they shall be capable of resisting a load of not less than 1.3 kN applied vertically or horizontally. If the bathroom layout does not provide a wall beside the water closet, the reinforcing for future installation of a grab bar would only be required in the wall behind the water closet.

If possible, the main bathroom should be located on the ground floor and available for use by all occupants.

The illustration below depicts an acceptable design layout for stud wall reinforcement.

