

## Commentary: Deflection and Camber

Camber may be built into trusses to compensate for the vertical deflection that results from the application of loads. Providing camber has the following advantages:

- Helps to ensure level ceilings and floors after dead loads are applied.
- Facilitates drainage to avoid ponding on flat or low slope roofs.
- Compensates for different deflection characteristics between adjacent trusses.
- Improves appearance of garage door headers and other long spans that can appear to "sag."
- Avoids "dips" in roof ridgelines at the transition from the gable to adjacent clear span trusses.

In accordance with ANSI/TPI 1 the Building Designer, through the Construction Documents, shall provide the location, direction, and magnitude of all loads attributable to ponding that may occur due to the design of the roof drainage system. The Building Designer shall also specify any dead load, live load, and in-service creep deflection criteria for flat or low-slope roofs subject to ponding loads.

The amount of camber is dependent on the truss type, span, loading, application, etceteras.

More restrictive limits for allowable deflection and slenderness ratio (L/D) may be required to help control vibration.

The following tables are provided as guidelines for limiting deflection and estimating camber. Conditions or codes may exist that require exceeding these recommendations, or past experience may warrant using more stringent limitations.

L = Span of Truss (inches)  
D = Depth of Truss at Deflection Point (inches)

### Recommended Truss Deflection Limits

Truss Type	L/D	Deflection Limits	
		Live Load	Total Load
Pitched Roof Trusses	24	L/240 (vertical)	L/180 (vertical)
Floor of Room-In-Attic Trusses	24	L/360 (vertical)	L/240 (vertical)
Flat or Shallow Pitched Roof Trusses	24	L/360 (vertical)	L/240 (vertical)
Residential Floor Trusses	24	L/360 (vertical)	L/240 (vertical)
Commercial Floor Trusses	20	L/480 (vertical)	L/240 (vertical)
Scissors Trusses	24	0.75" (horizontal)	1.25" (horizontal)

Truss Type	Recommended Camber
Pitched Trusses	1.00 x Deflection from Actual Dead Load
Sloping Parallel Chord Trusses	1.5 x Vertical Deflection from Actual Dead Load
Floor Trusses	(0.25 x Deflection from Live Load) + Actual Dead Load
Flat Roof Trusses	(0.25 x Deflection from Live Load) + (1.5 x Design Dead Load Deflection)

Note: The actual dead load may be considerably less than the design dead load.

**\*\*\*WARNING\*\*\* READ AND FOLLOW ALL NOTES ON THIS DRAWING  
\*\*\*IMPORTANT\*\*\* FURNISH THIS DRAWING TO ALL CONTRACTORS INCLUDING THE INSTALLERS.**

Trusses require extreme care in fabricating, handling, shipping, installing and bracing. Refer to and follow the latest edition of BCSI (Building Component Safety Information, by TPI and SBCA) for safety practices prior to performing these functions. Installers shall provide temporary bracing per BCSI. Unless noted otherwise, top chord shall have properly attached structural sheathing and bottom chord shall have a properly attached rigid ceiling. Locations shown for permanent lateral restraint of webs of truss and position as shown above and on the Joint Details, unless noted otherwise. Refer to drawings 160A-Z for standard plate positions.

Alpine, a division of ITW Building Components Group Inc. shall not be responsible for any deviation from this drawing, any failure to build the truss in conformance with ANSI/TPI 1, or for handling, shipping, installation & bracing of trusses.

A seal on this drawing or cover page listing this drawing, indicates acceptance of professional engineering responsibility solely for the design shown. The suitability and use of this drawing for any structure is the responsibility of the Building Designer per ANSI/TPI 1 Sec.2.

For more information see this Job's general notes page and these web sites:  
ALPINE: [www.alpineitw.com](http://www.alpineitw.com); TPI: [www.tpinst.org](http://www.tpinst.org); SBCA: [www.sbcacomponents.com](http://www.sbcacomponents.com); ICC: [www.iccsafe.org](http://www.iccsafe.org)



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REF	DEFLEC/CAMB
DATE	10/01/14
DRWG	DEFLCAMB1014