



R602.6.1 Drilling and notching of top plate. When piping or ductwork is placed in or partly in an exterior wall or interior load-bearing wall, necessitating cutting, drilling or notching of the top plate by more than 50 percent of its width, a galvanized metal tie not less than 0.054 inch thick (16 ga) and 1 1/2 inches wide shall be fastened across and to the plate at each side of the opening with not less than eight 10d (0.148 inch diameter) nails having a minimum length of 1 1/2 inches at each side or equivalent. The metal tie must extend a minimum of 6 inches past the opening.

Exception: When the entire side of the wall with the notch or cut is covered by wood structural panel sheathing.