

Web Stiffener Requirements

A web stiffener is a block of plywood, OSB, or even a 2x4 that is added to stiffen the I-joist's web, increase the bearing surface between the web and the flange, and provide additional support for a hanger or other connector. Web stiffeners are common with certain types of joist hanger installations, particularly in roof systems. They are typically placed at the end of the I-joist, between the flanges and against both sides of the web. When used at end bearings, web stiffeners should be installed tight against the bottom flange of the I-joist, but with a minimum 1/8" gap between the top of the stiffener and the bottom of the top flange. **Web stiffeners must be made of Utility grade SPF (south) or better for lumber and/or Sheathing grade or better for wood structural panels.**

When designed in accordance with the load/span conditions set forth in the tables in the Roseburg EWP Design Guide or Installation Guide, RFPI-Joists do not require web stiffeners, with the following exceptions:

- When sides of the hangers do not laterally brace the top flange of each I-joist.
- Birds mouth cuts for roof joists.
- When I-joists are designed to support concentrated loads greater than 1000 lbs applied to the I-joist's top flange between supports. In these applications only, the gap between the web stiffener and the flange shall be at the bottom flange.

Web stiffeners may be cut in the field as required for the application.

The use of web stiffeners or bearing lengths that are longer than the minimum required may result in allowable spans that are longer than those shown in the Roseburg EWP Design Guide or Installation Guide. The most accurate method of determining if a joist is adequate and if web stiffeners are required is to use appropriate software (e.g. Simpson Strong-Tie® Component Solutions™) or engineering analysis for the actual conditions.