

MANUFACTURED HOME INSTALLATION TRAINING MANUAL

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
Office of Policy Development and Research
Affordable Housing Research and Technology Division

BRACING
TUBE

PD&R

hud

ANGLE

2x6 PRESSURE-
TREATED
(2x4 CROSS-BRACE
NOT SHOWN)

Prepared by:

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Norwalk, CT

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FOREWORD

Improving the quality, long-term durability, and safety of installation is a high priority within the manufactured housing industry. HUD shares the industry's concern, and is taking many steps to assist the industry in this effort. Issues relating to the installation of manufactured housing have for several years occupied a prominent role among the research projects at HUD's Office of Policy Development and Research. These important issues will continue to be a top research priority.

One of the most important of these installation-related research projects is this Manufactured Home Installation Training Manual. Unlike any other document on the subject, this document lays out all the issues that need to be considered while installing a home. Each issue is discussed in objective detail, explaining the "why" behind the issues in simple language. Installer trainers, using this document, will be able to evaluate all the issues and make their own assessment of the emphasis each issue deserves in a training program. This document is intended to complement, but not to replace, manufacturers' installation instruction manuals, state regulatory documents, manufacturers' instructions for the use of individual products, and, most important, installer training programs. It is not a course of study, and above all, it is not a set of regulations.

Inevitably, the information in this Manufactured Home Installation Training Manual challenges some widely-held beliefs, and raises issues that need to be resolved. Wherever possible, suggestions are included for resolving these issues in a cost-effective manner. In the end, however, the industry will apply its well-known ingenuity to address these problems without adding unnecessary cost burdens to the affordable housing provided by the manufactured home industry.

Both the industry and HUD share the goal of making manufactured housing safe and durable; in as economical a way as possible. HUD, through this publication and others like it, will continue its commitment to assist the industry in this crucial effort.

Xavier de Souza Briggs

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Research, Evaluation, and Monitoring
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

DISCLAIMER

There are many organizations that are concerned about both the safety and the cost of HUD-Code installations. A small Advisory Group was formed to help focus the content of this book, and to review and comment on its various drafts. Members were intentionally drawn from the widest possible range of viewpoints. Two consumer groups, the Consumer's Union and the National Manufactured Home Owners Association, were represented, as were installers, trainers, manufacturers, code and regulatory officials, retailers, the Manufactured Housing Institute, the HUD Manufactured Housing & Standards Division, and the HUD Affordable Housing Division that commissioned the work.

Inevitably, the recommendations in this book will not conform to the practices of all established installer trainers. Wherever possible, some leeway has been left in the recommendations to take account of traditional methods. However, concerns are raised in this book that have not been fully addressed by the industry, and in those cases, new and perhaps controversial recommendations have been put forth. All of these are based upon sound engineering principles, and follow long experience in site-built home construction.

Wherever possible, costly measures have been avoided, but additional setup steps cannot be performed free of charge. Each group represented in the Advisory Group either implicitly or explicitly must balance safety and cost, and each will balance the two differently for each issue. In cases where the members of the Advisory Group disagreed, the book attempts to follow a sensible middle course.

In all cases, HUD and its contractor, Steven Winter Associates, Inc., and not the Advisory Group, are responsible for the final text.

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