

TINY HOUSE PLANS



How to Read House Plans

At first glance, building plans can look pretty intimidating. But with the help of our guide, you can quickly decode the different images and symbols found in a building plan.

Elevation View

This marking indicates an elevation, or side view, of the house plan. The number or name of the view is above, and the page number is below. In this case, the back elevation is on page 2.



Section View

This marking indicates where there will be a cutaway view of a certain section of the house plan. The line shows where the cutaway starts, and the arrow shows which direction the cutaway faces. This one is cutaway #1 on page A3.1.



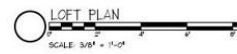
Detail View

This marking indicates that there's a more zoomed-in view of a certain part of the house plan. The detail number is above, and the page number is below. This one is detail #5 on page A5.1.



Scale Markings

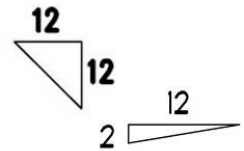
These markings show how the measurements of the house plan have been scaled down to fit on the paper or screen. You might see a black and white bar, comparing different lengths to how long they'd be in real life. Or, the scale will just be listed.



SCALE: $\frac{3}{8}$ " = 1'-0"

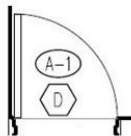
Slope

This symbol indicates the slope of an angled surface, like a roof. The proportion of the rise (on the vertical side of the triangle) to the run (on the horizontal side of the triangle) will indicate the angle. These are examples of 12:12 and 2:12 slopes.



Windows and Doors

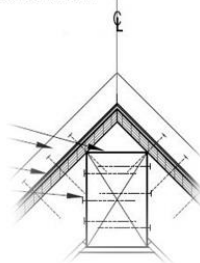
Windows are marked with hexagons, and doors with circles or ovals. On the left, we see door A-1 with inset window D. A plan might include a schedule, which is a chart that tells you the sizes, brands, and quantities of the windows and doors you need.



WINDOW SYMBOL	QUANTITY
A	6
B	9
C	2

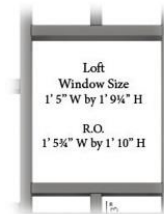
Center Line

This "CL" marking indicates a center line. Often certain elements will be mirror images of each other on either side of the line, like the roof peak detailed below.



Rough Opening

Rough openings for windows and doors will be indicated with an "R.O." These openings will be a bit bigger in height and width than the actual windows or doors will be.



Hinge Direction

Sometimes plans will indicate how the doors and windows should swing open and closed. The point of the dotted line indicates the side where it will pivot. In this view, door A-1 will hinge from the right.



Other Abbreviations

Here are some abbreviations you might see on plans.

#	Pounds or number	CLR	Clear	GA	Gauge	MAX	Maximum	SHTH'G	Sheathing
&	And	DET	Detail	GALV	Galvanized	MC	Medicine cabinet	SIM	Similar
@	At	DF	Douglas fir	GLB	Glue laminated beam	MFR	Manufacturer	SS	Stainless steel
AB	Anchor bolt	DS	Downspout	GYP	Gypsum	MIN	Minimum	TBD	To be determined
ABV	Above	(E)	Existing	GWB	Gypsum wall board	NTS	Not to scale	TO	Top of
ARCH	Architectural	EA	Each	HVAC	Heating & coolin equip.	OC	On center	TYP	Typical
AFF	Above finished floor	E.N.	Edge nailing	HRV	Heat recovery ventilation	PLYW'D	Plywood	UNO	Unless noted otherwise
ALUM	Aluminum	EQ	Equal	HB	Hose bibb	R	Radius	VERT	Vertical
ANOD	Anodized	EQUIP	Equipment	HC	Hollow core	REINF	Reinforc(ed)(ing)	W/	With
BLK'G	Blocking	EXT	Exterior	HDR	Header	RO	Rough opening	W/O	Without
B.N.	Boundary nailing	FF	Finish floor	HORIZ	Horizontal	SC	Solid core	W.W.	Welded wire
BOT	Bottom	FO	Face of	INSUL	Insulation	S.N.	Shear nailing	W.W.M	Welded wire mesh
BYND	Beyond	FTG	Footing	INT	Interior	SQ FT	Square foot		

Electrical Symbols

Here are some electrical symbols you'll see in most building plans.

\$	Single light switch		Ceiling-mounted light		Duplex electrical outlet	---	Linear accent
\$3	Triple light switch		Wall-mounted light		Ground fault circuit interrupter outlet	F	Wall-mounted exhaust fan
\$D	Dimmer switch		Recessed light		Dedicated appliance outlet	T	Wall-mounted thermostat

For more info about wiring a tiny house, check out our **Shockingly Simple Electrical** ebook.

