

ONTARIO TRUSS REPORT

Does your building have Truss Uplift?

A truss fabricator is often asked about the causes and solutions to controlling Truss Uplift. This is also known as Partition Separation, and can generally be caused by a variety of factors. According to the best available data, roof truss movement is responsible for only 20% of the reported cases of Partition Separation.

Partition Separation is not limited to roof trusses, but can also be noticed in homes with conventionally framed roofs. This problem occurs primarily in the winter months, particularly during the first few years of occupancy. As the building “dries” over the course of the first few years, partition separation tends to decrease and/or cease completely.

Arching movement in roof trusses is typically due to differences in the moisture content between the top and bottom chords of the truss. Arching has not been associated with structural problems such as truss failure. In fact, the stresses that cause roof truss arching or uplift testify to the structural integrity of metal plated wood trusses.

Building settlement can result from improperly sized footings, soil bearing capacity, freeze/thaw cycles or fluctuating water tables, and subsequently can erroneously appear as roof truss uplift.

Deflection in a floor system or supporting beam may result in an interior wall that does not act in tandem with the roof trusses, and creates a separation at the finish line between the wall and the ceiling.

Partition Separation can be effectively controlled through good building practices. Roof Trusses should not be rigidly connected to non-load bearing partition walls. Additionally, the practice of “floating” the drywall at interior corners with wood blocking that is held back from the wall/ceiling intersection is critical. Lastly, good attic ventilation solves a number of building deficiencies, not the least of which is Partition Separation.

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The Ontario Wood Truss Fabricators Association (OWTFa) represents the common interests of the truss industry in Ontario, including promoting the use of wood trusses in residential, commercial and agricultural structures. For more information please contact Mike Phillips, Executive Director of the Ontario Wood Truss Fabricators Association (OWTFa) at 416-235-0194 or www.owtfa.com

