

- Q:** Is there the option to design in pre-fabricated shear walls for regions that do not meet the code prescribed aspect ratio?
- A:** We do not currently have pre-fabricated shear wall panels in the program. You can create your own custom shear panel in the Excel database that has a shear capacity and shear stiffness (for deflection) that matches a prefabricated panel. Regions that do not meet the NDS aspect ratio are still ignored though.
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- Q:** The boundary conditions showed vertical reactions along the entire base of the wall, not just at the chords. Are the chord forces using these reactions?
- A:** For finite element force distribution the vertical loads are being carried along the entire sill plate of the wall. The chord forces are accurately calculated by the program according to hand calc methods, but because there is no "chord" in the FEA model you don't see its force in the FEA results.
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- Q:** In the Soft Story example, was there one or two segments on the top wall?
- A:** There was only one region/segment present on the top wall. The lower wall was continuously connected to the upper wall, even though a "strap" wasn't present at its corner. You could draw two regions side-by-side on the top wall to add a strap in the middle.
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- Q:** In the Soft Story example, how can I prevent the top and bottom walls from being continuously connected?
- A:** You can model a small gap between them. That will prevent the walls from meshing together.
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- Q:** Can wood floor diaphragms be solved in RISAFloor, or only metal and concrete decks?
- A:** RISAFloor can do analysis for any deck material including wood, metal and concrete. RISAFloor will design wood diaphragms in which it chooses the optimum sheathing and nailing.

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