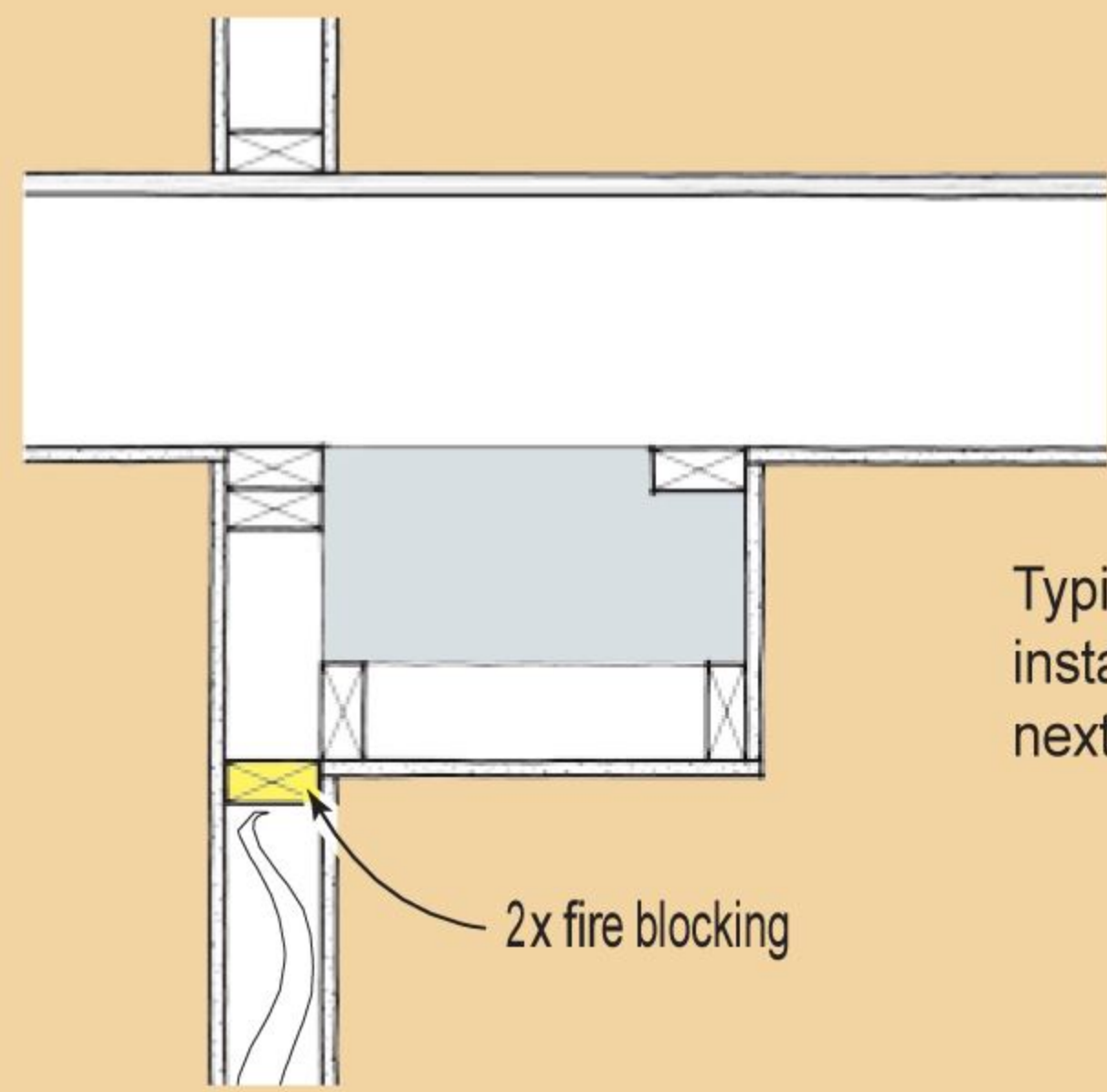
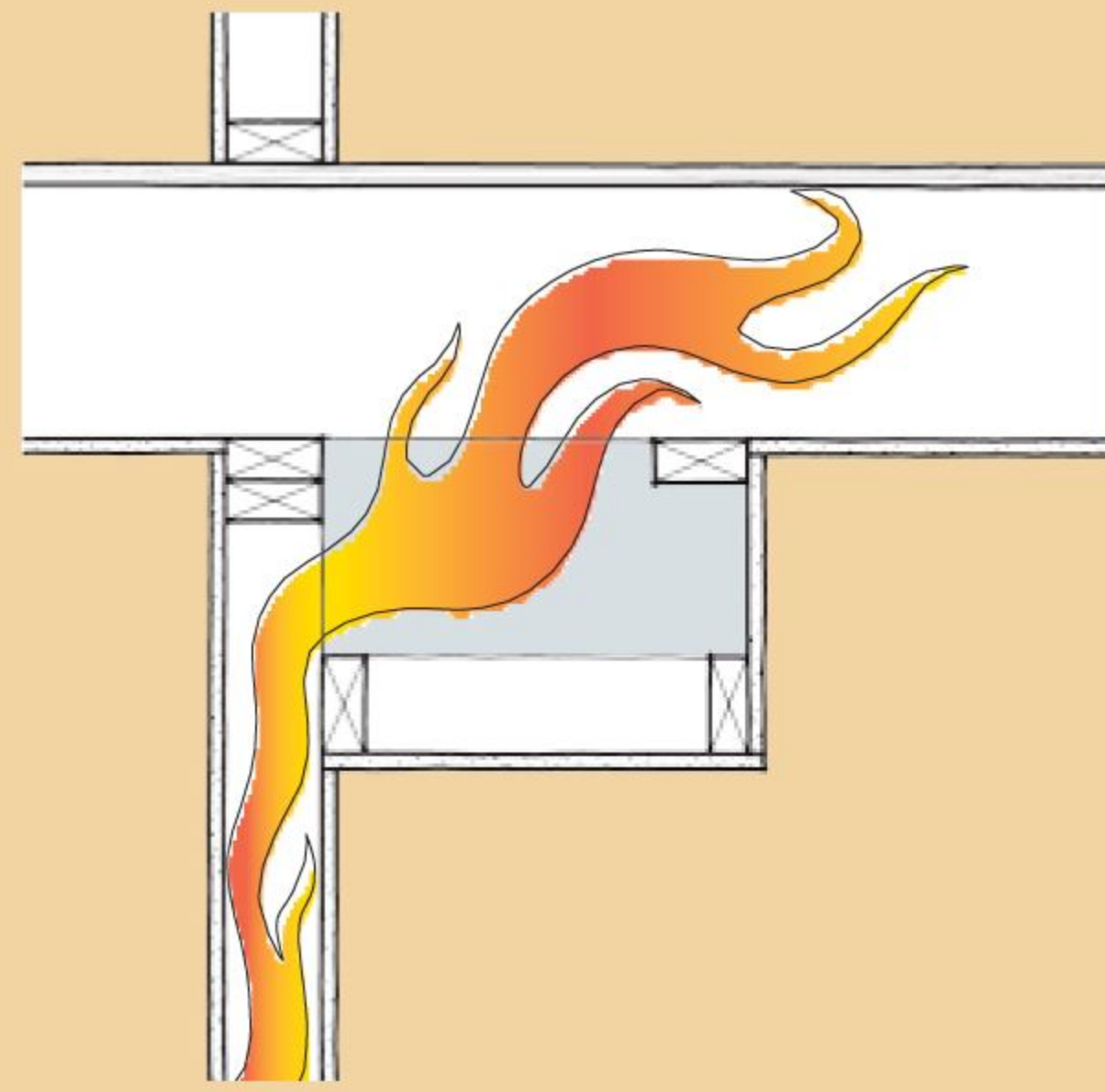


Fire Blocking Locations

Fire-Blocking Strategies

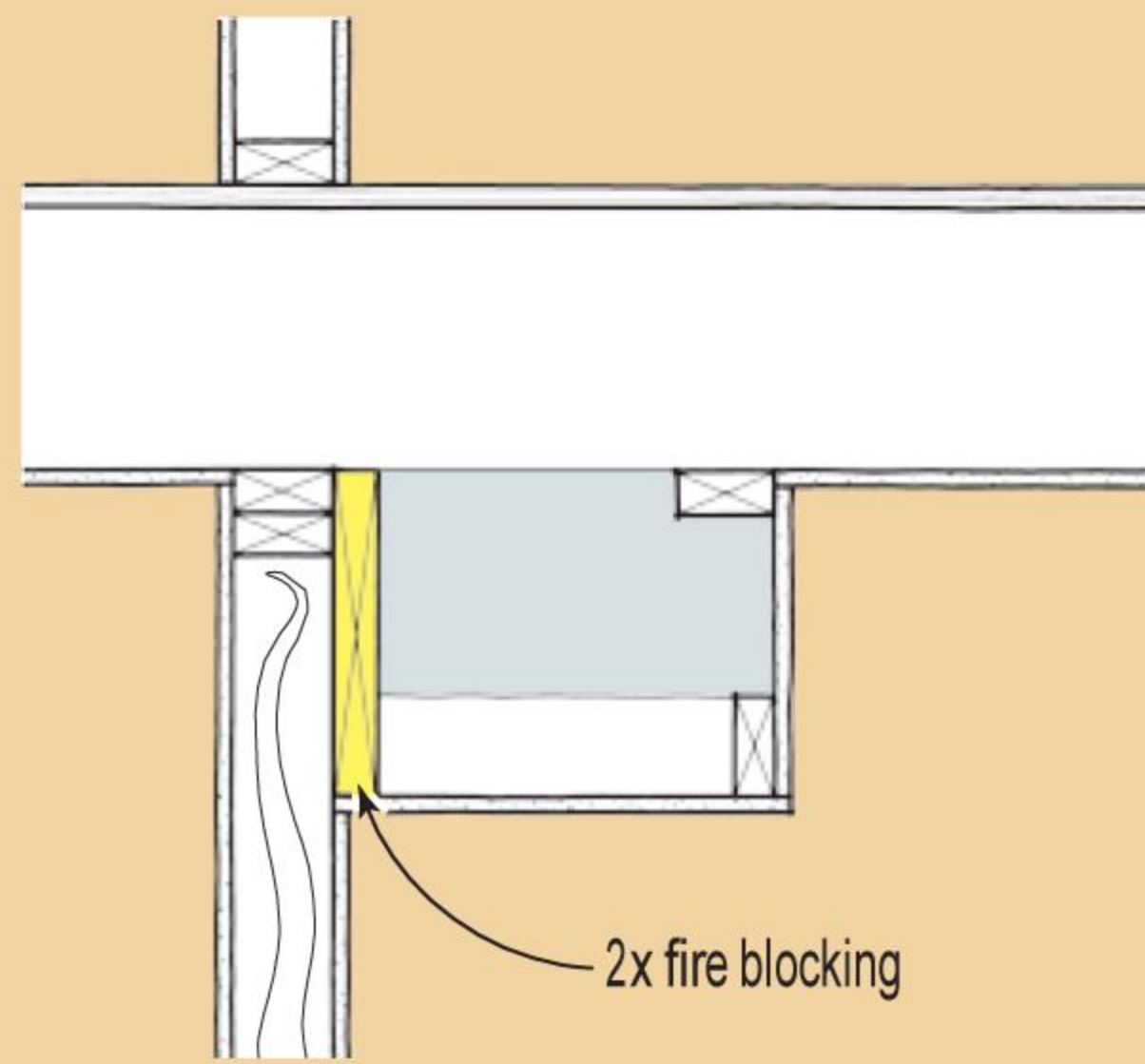
Without fire blocking, a soffit provides a path for fire to spread from a wall cavity to the joist bays above. There are several ways to fire block an area like this.



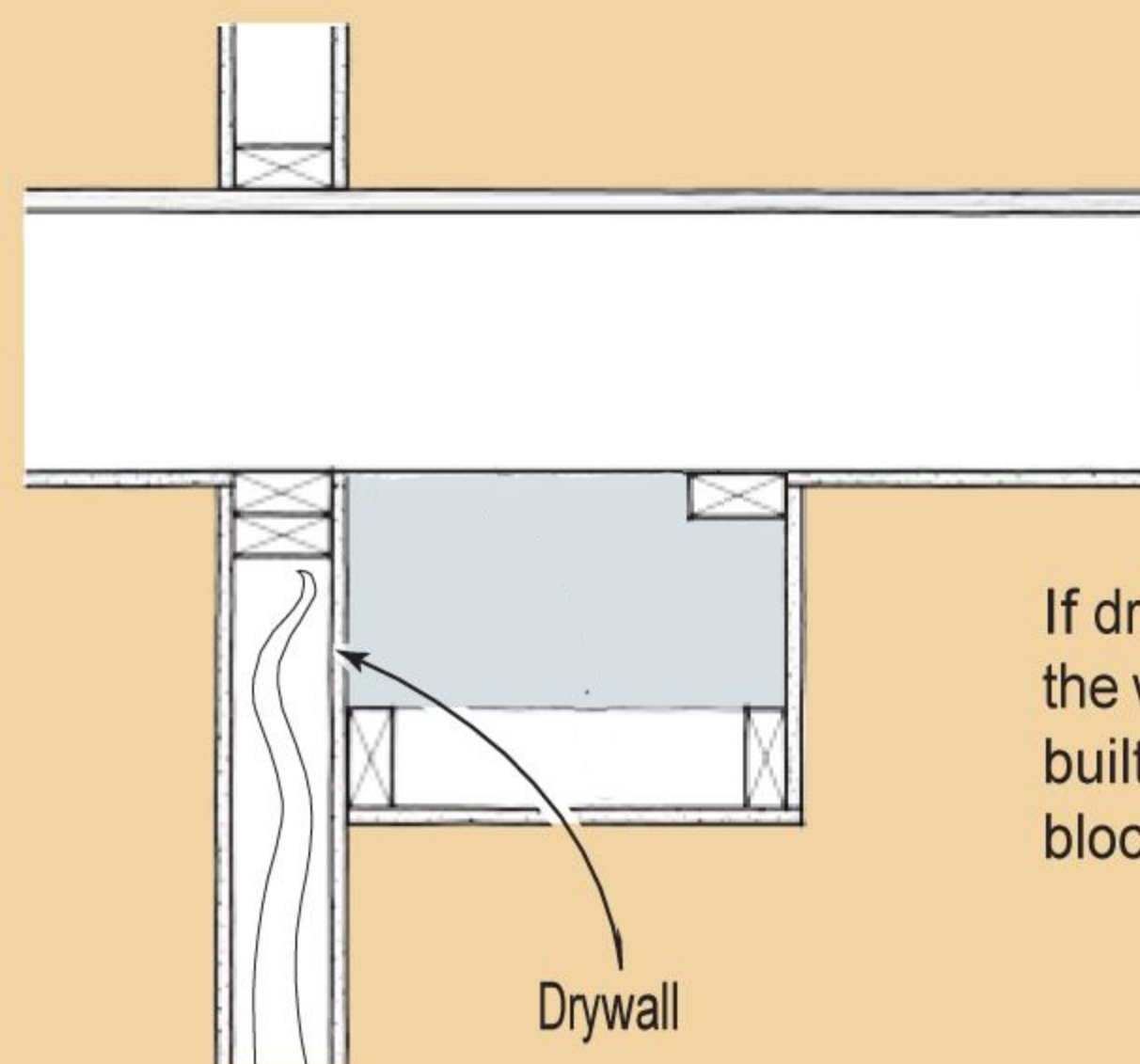
Typically, fire blocks are installed in the stud bays next to soffits.

2x fire blocking

Installing a single piece of material across the face of the studs is often faster than using individual blocks. Approved materials include 2x lumber, 3/4" structural sheathing, and 1/2" drywall.



2x fire blocking

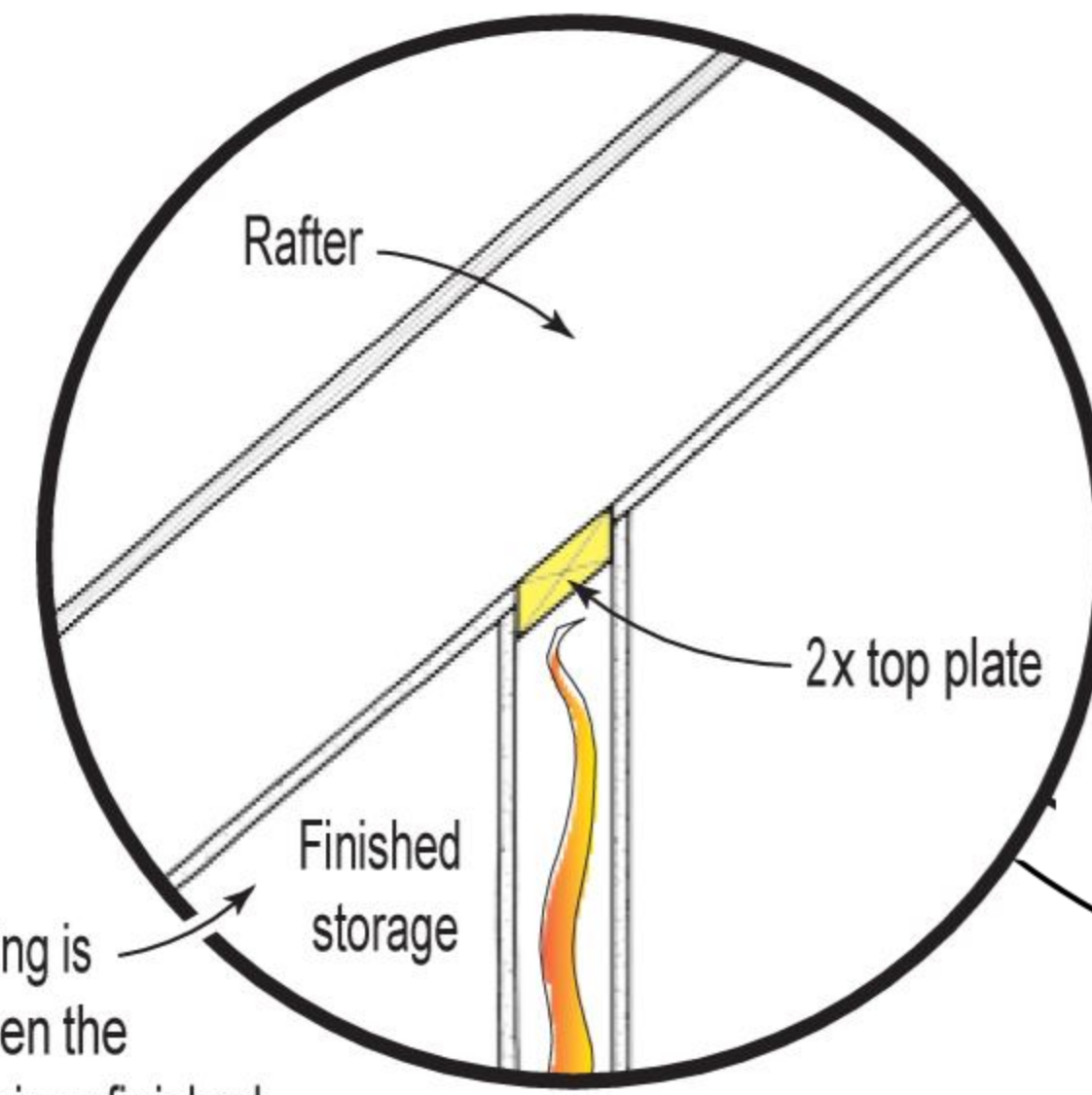


If drywall has been installed on the wall before the soffit is built, no additional fire blocking is needed.

Drywall

Knee Walls

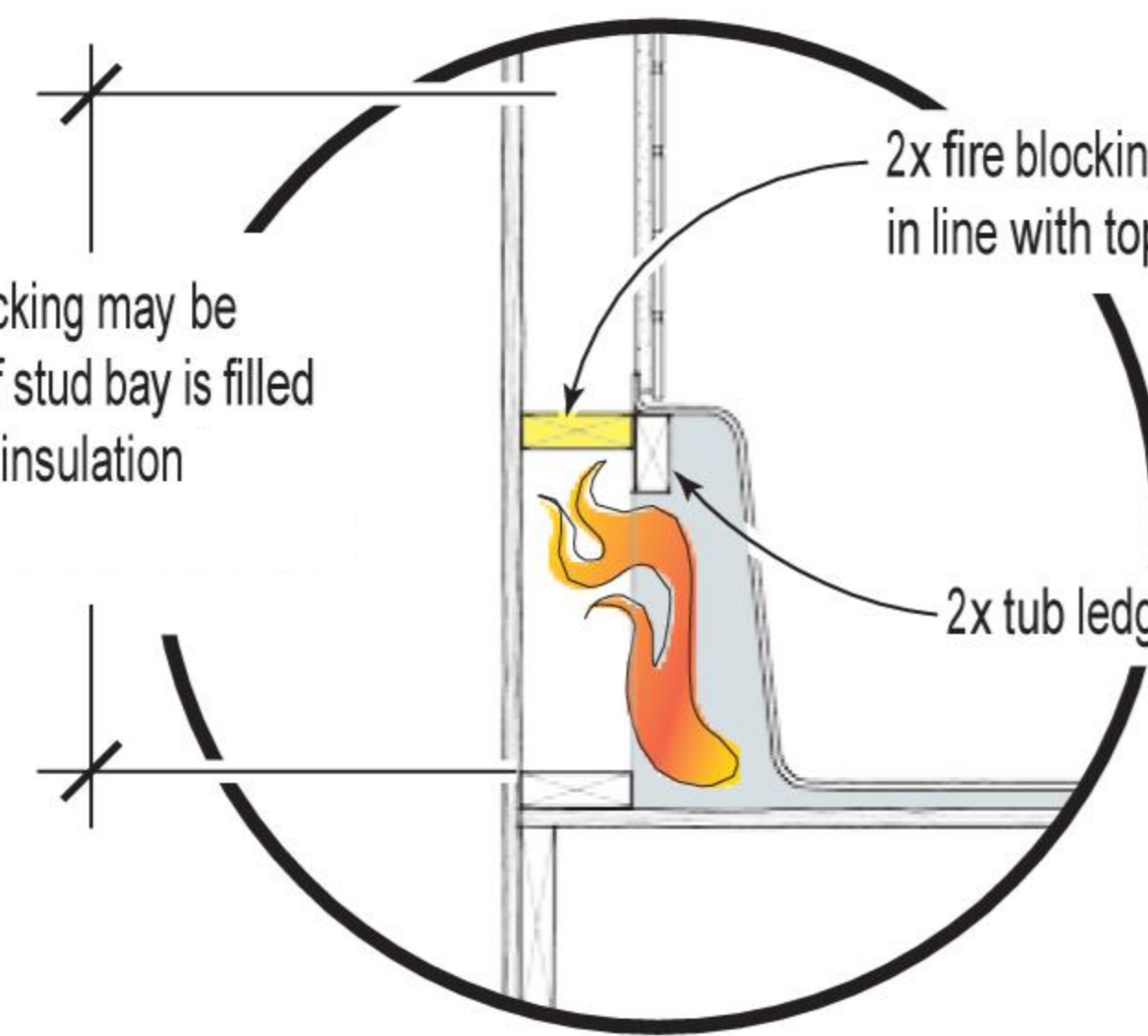
If the space behind the knee wall is finished, the stud bays must be fire blocked. Here, the top plate acts as the fire blocking, preventing flames from entering the rafter bay.



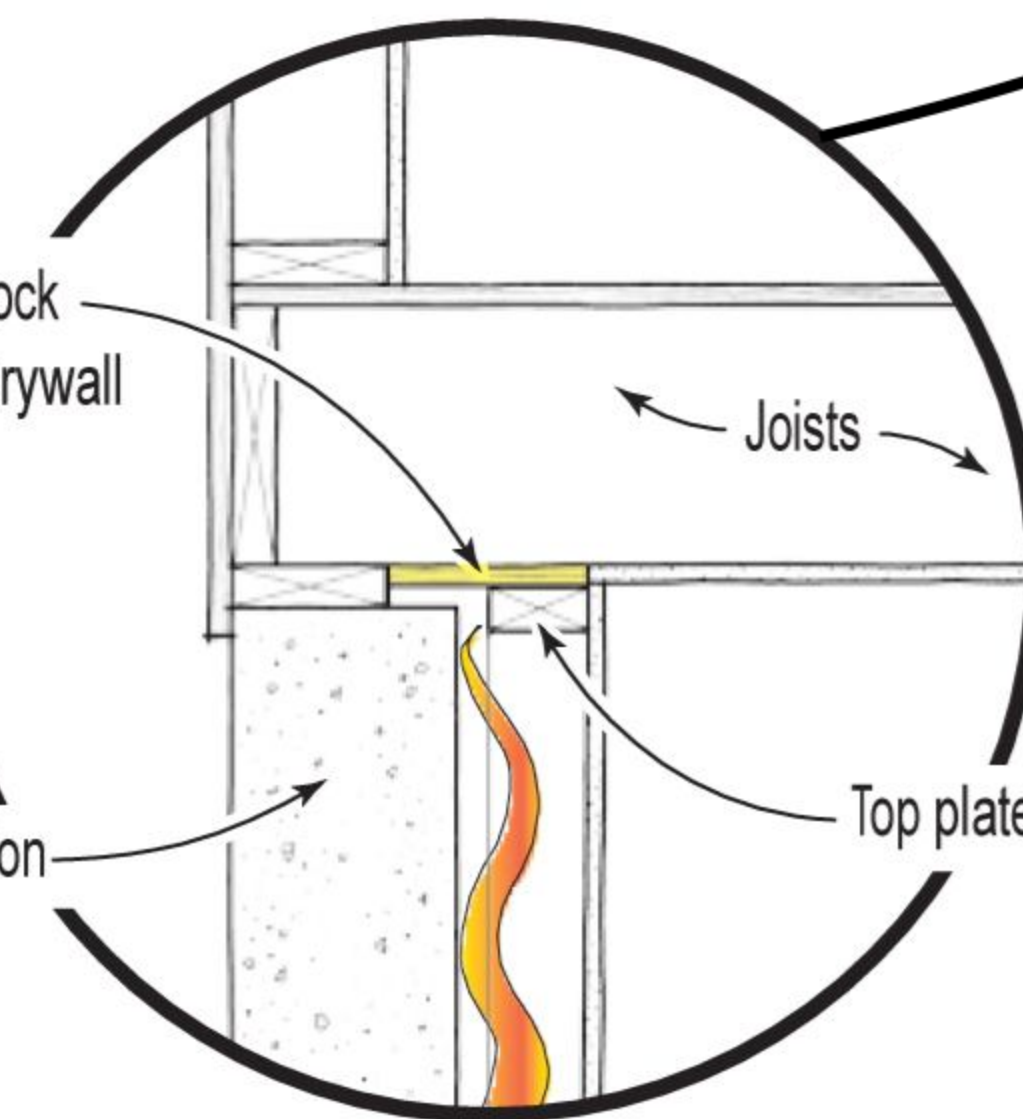
Note: Fire blocking is not required when the knee-wall space is unfinished; the stud bays are considered part of the unfinished attic.

Tub Deck

Fire blocking is required in the stud bays around a drop-in tub on interior walls.



Note: Blocking may be omitted if stud bay is filled with batt insulation.



Perimeter Basement Walls

A space behind a 2x4 perimeter basement wall must be separated from the joist bays above.

9.10.16.2 - B.C.B.C.

Permitted Fire Blocking Materials

- 0.38 mm sheet steel,
- 12.7 mm gypsum board,
- 12.5 mm plywood, OSB or waferboard, with joints having continuous supports,
- 2 layers of 19 mm lumber with joints staggered,
- 38 mm lumber

Fire Blocking Exemption for Walls

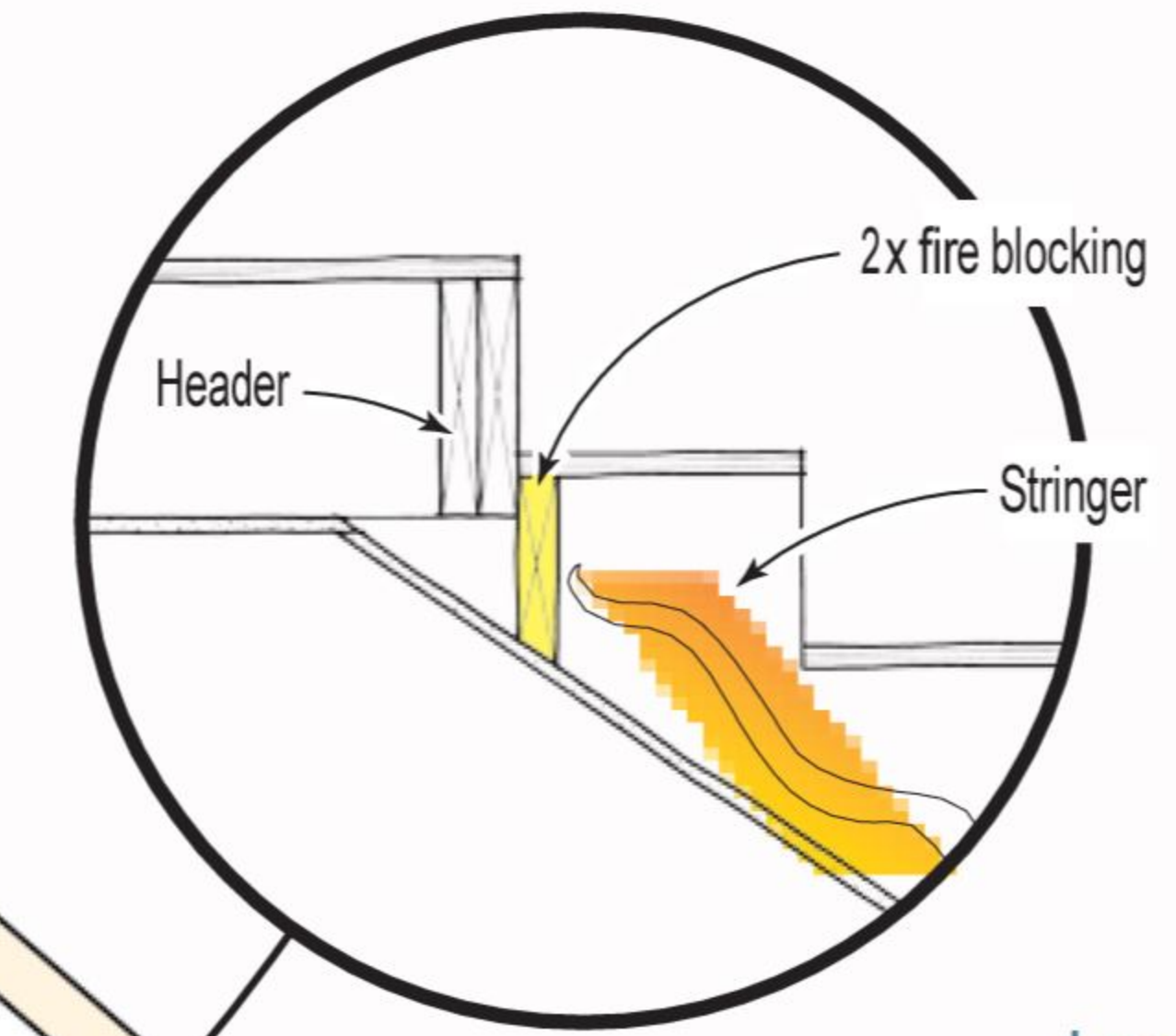
- No blocking required in walls where the wall is insulated and insulation is supported from moving in the cavity.

Penetrations

- Penetrations for wires and piping between horizontal and vertical spaces are required to be fire/smoke sealed.

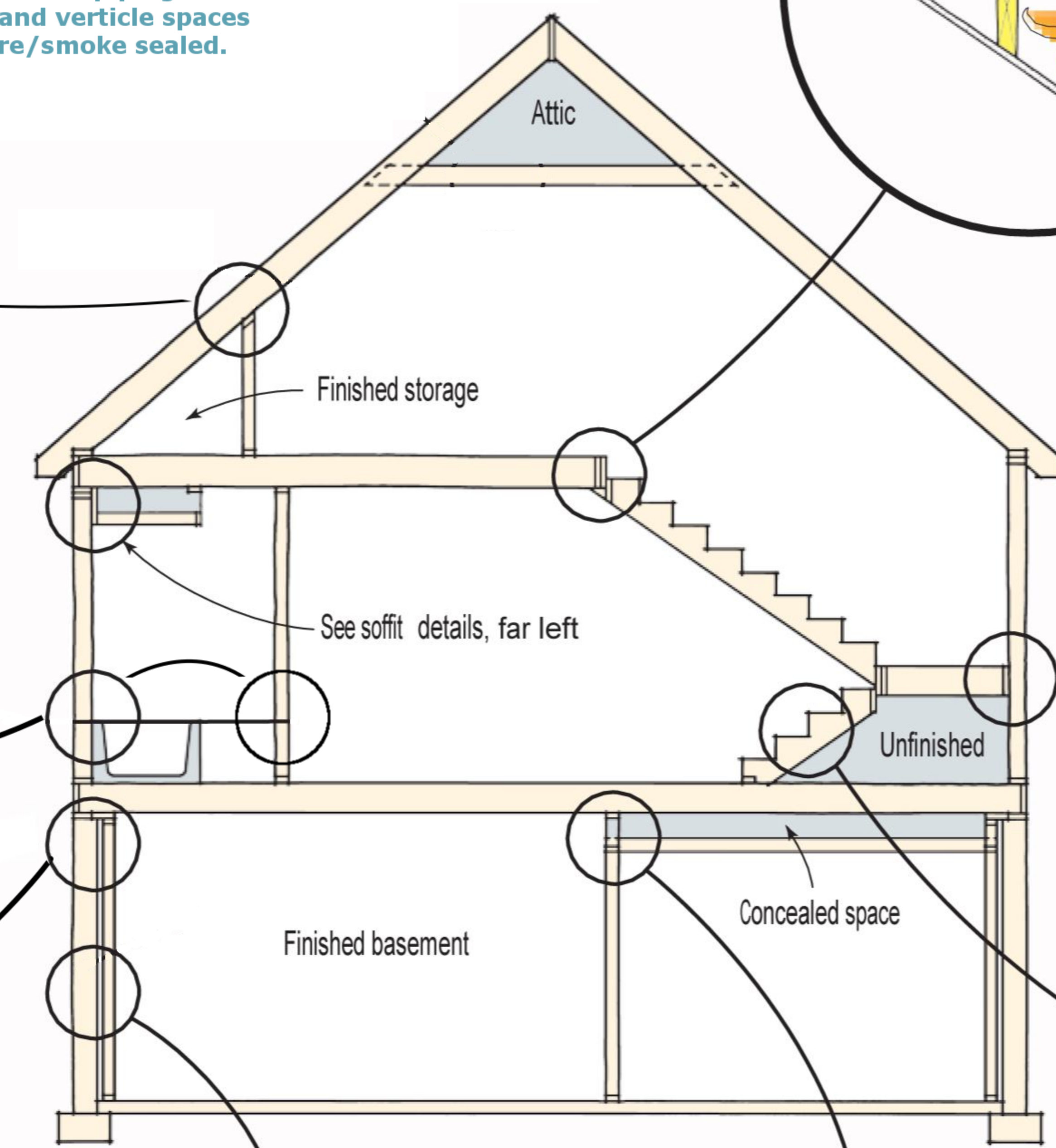
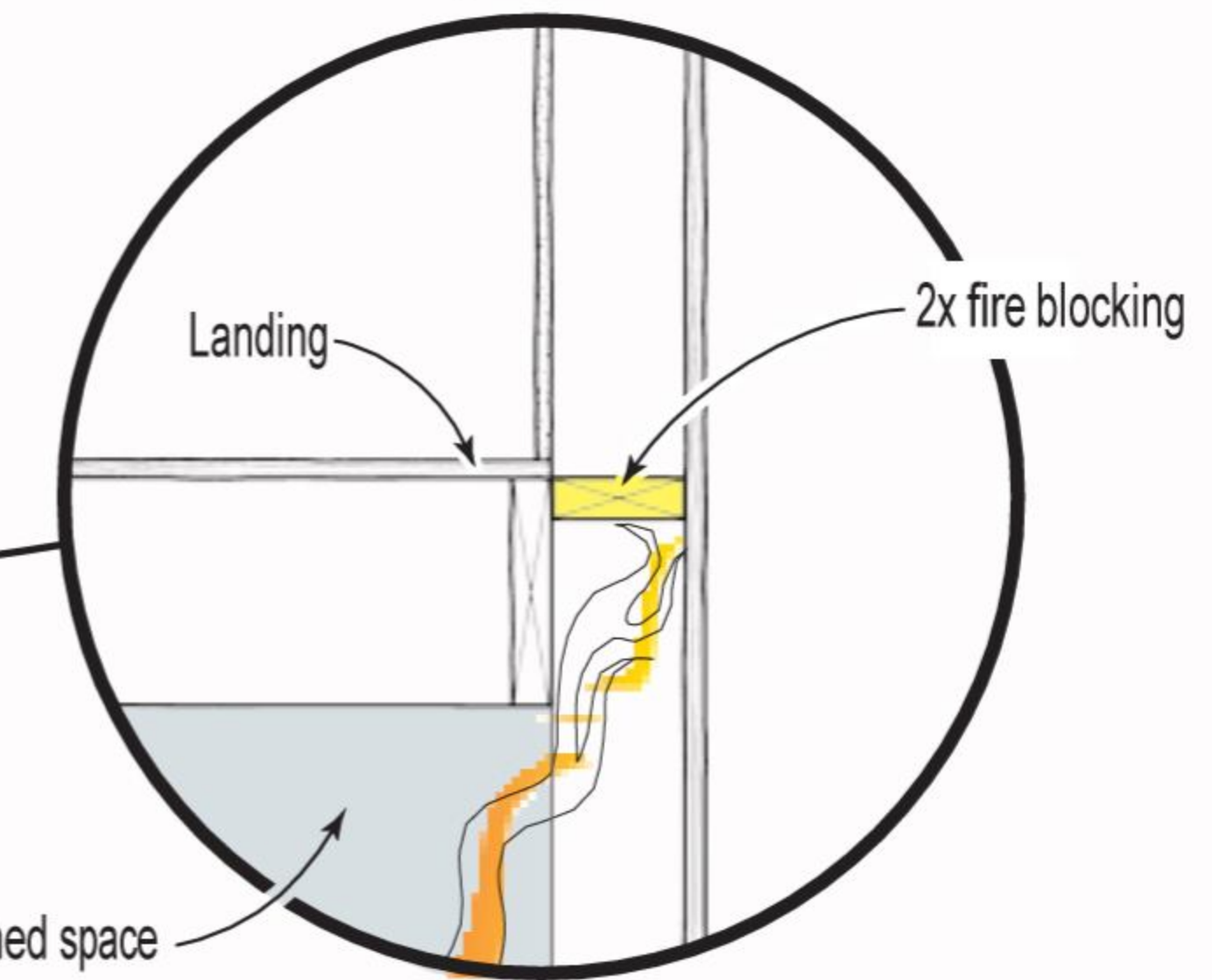
Stair Stringers

The space between stringers must be separated from the upper-story floor-joist bays. 9.10.16.1 (4) - B.C.B.C.

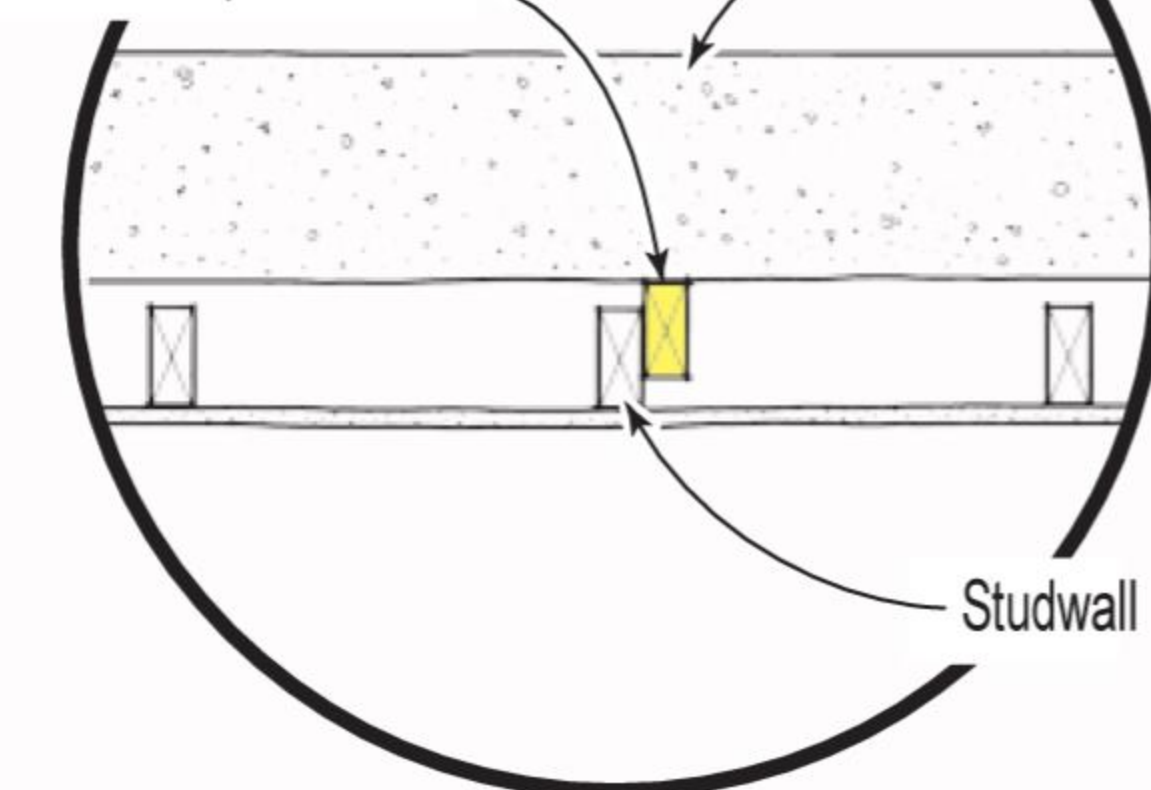


Landings

If the area underneath the landing is unfinished, the wall bays must be blocked.

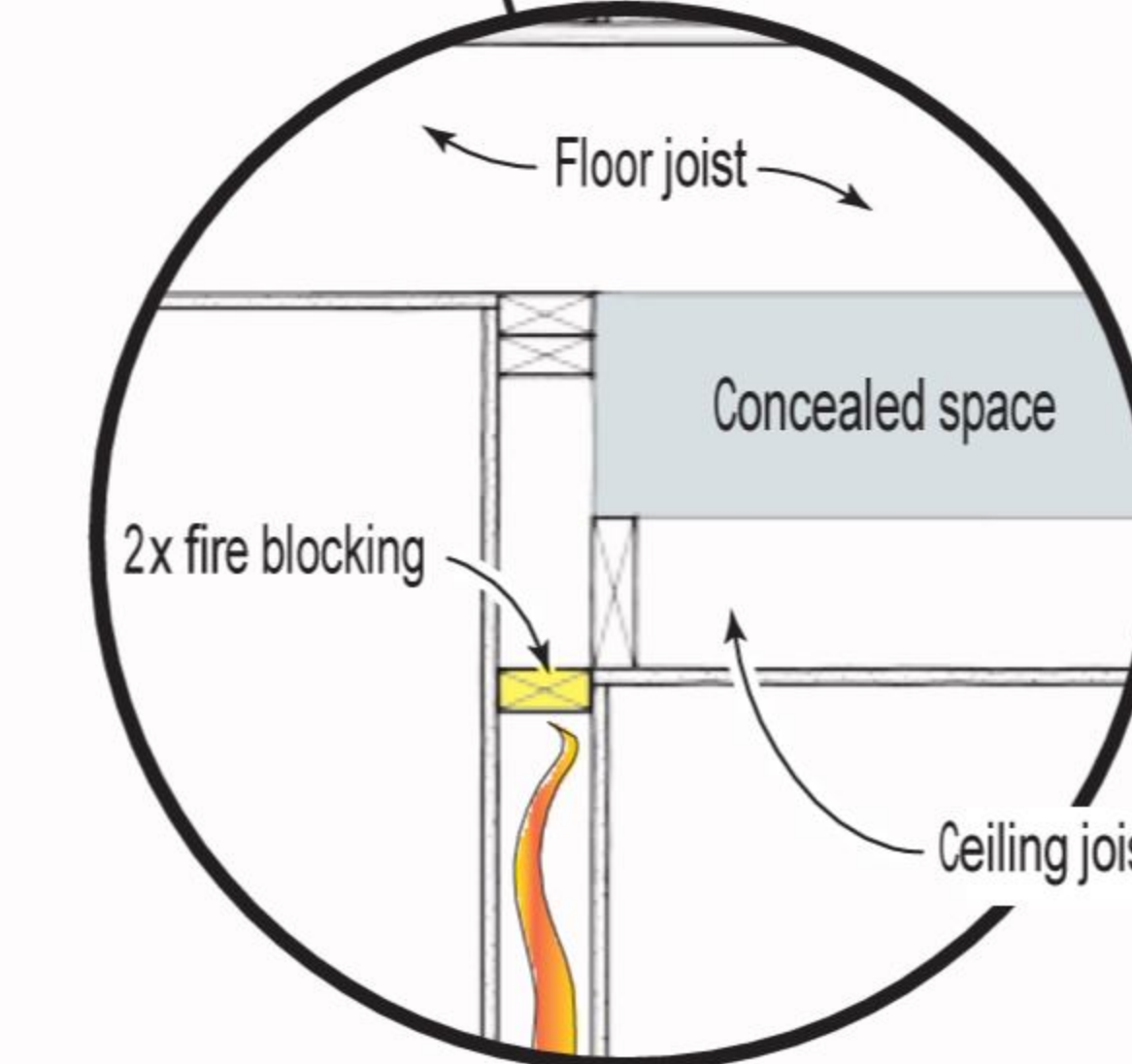


A sistered PT 2x4 breaks the space between stud wall and foundation into smaller compartments.



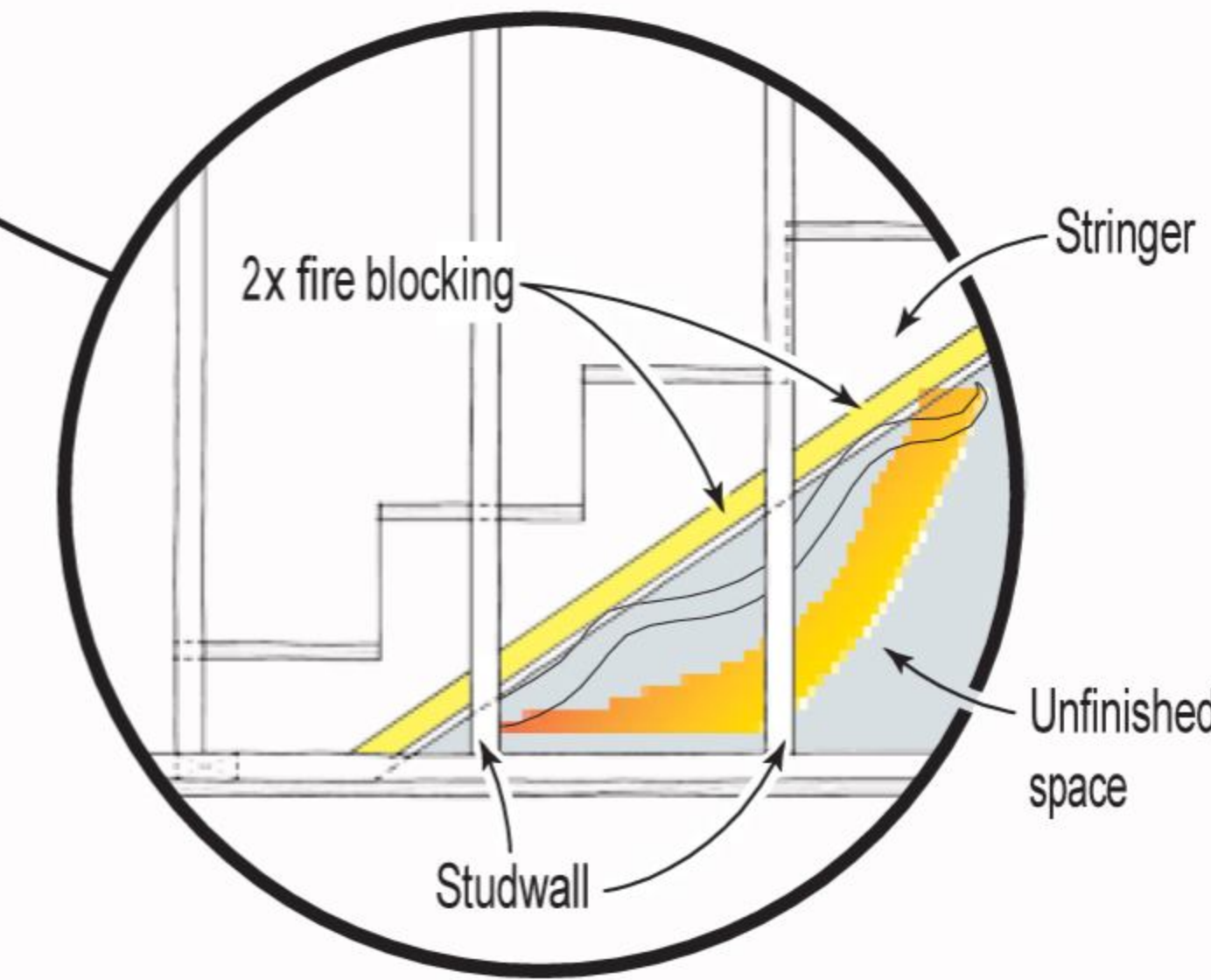
Concealed Spaces in Walls

When a wall is not drywalled or sheathed on both sides — which is typical of furred-out basement walls and double stud walls — there must be a full-height fire block every 20 meters horizontally. 9.10.16.1 (1) - B.C.B.C.



Dropped Ceilings

Dropped ceilings can be blocked in the same way as soffits (see "Fire-Blocking Strategies," far left). 9.10.16.1 (5) - B.C.B.C.



Stair Stringers

If the area below the stair is unfinished, fire blocks are required in the stud bays alongside the stringer. If the area beneath is finished with minimum 1/2" drywall, this blocking is typically not required.