

Brighton & Hove

**Information
Sheet No. 8**

NOTCHING AND DRILLING OF TIMBER JOISTS

Notches and holes are often required to be made in timber floor and roof joists to accommodate waste pipes from sanitary fittings, pipes for central heating installations or pipes and cables for other types of appliances.

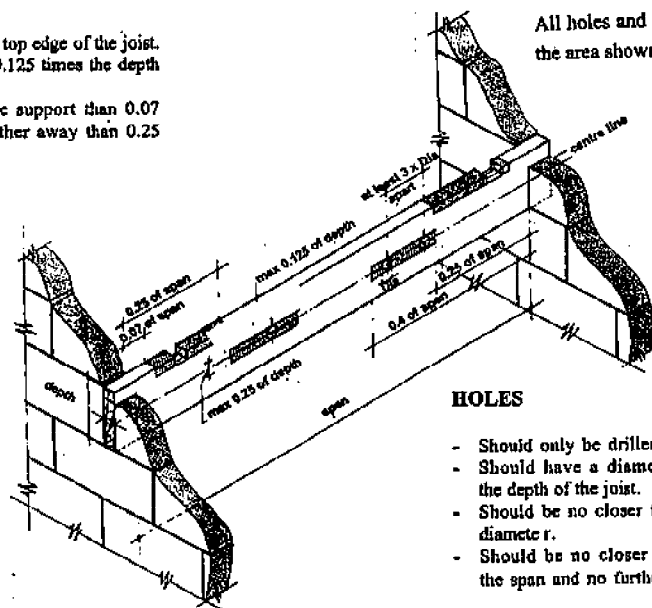
If not made correctly, notches and holes can weaken the strength of the joists and ultimately result in collapse.

The guidance given in this information sheet suggests an accepted approach for **NORMAL DOMESTIC LOADS** on joists in single family houses of not more than 3 storeys. In the interests of your own safety any proposed notches or holes outside the limits shown in the diagram below or in other types of building or loading conditions should be checked out by a qualified structural engineer.

Holes or notches too close together, holes drilled near joist ends or off the central axis and notches badly made or near the centre of the span can weaken joists so that they become unreliable for supporting loads.

NOTCHES

- Should only be made in the top edge of the joist.
- Should be no deeper than 0.125 times the depth of the joists.
- Should be no closer to the support than 0.07 times the span and no further away than 0.25 times the span.



HOLES

- Should only be drilled on the centre line of the joist.
- Should have a diameter no greater than 0.25 times the depth of the joist.
- Should be no closer together than 3 times the larger diameter.
- Should be no closer to the support than 0.25 times the span and no further away than 0.4 times the span.

Local Authority
**BUILDING
CONTROL**

The information contained in this leaflet is for guidance only, and clarification should be sought from Building Control regarding any Building Regulation matters. You are also advised to contact Development Control as planning permission may be required for your proposed building work.

