

UPDATE

A PERIODICAL FOR THE HOMEOWNER

Truss Uplift

A phenomenon known as "truss uplift" is relatively common on new houses. This is not well understood, but does involve the bottom member of the truss deflecting upward during the winter weather. It is argued that the temperature and humidity changes in the attic during the winter months affect the sections of the truss above the insulation level, differently than the bottom chord buried in the insulation. This results in upward bowing of the bottom chord. The result of truss uplift is that the centre section of the bottom chord moves upward, and gaps as large as 1-1/2" appear at the top of the interior walls, where they join the ceiling. The ceiling is picked up by the truss. It is less common but also possible, that the entire wall be lifted up, and separation will occur between the bottom of the wall and the floor. At present a good solution is not known for this problem, although common corrective action is to secure a moulding to the ceiling (but not to the wall). As the ceiling moves up and down, the moulding will slide up and down the wall but the gap will not be visible. Another solution is to disconnect the ceiling drywall from the truss. Alternate ceiling support is generally necessary. Truss uplift also has an effect on vaulted type ceilings but is **not** a serious structural problem.

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