This pictorial is designed to give those with little or no experience in building a general idea of the process they might be involved in. The supervisor for the day will give more detailed instruction. Terms that may be unfamiliar are highlighted in ***blue****. Links to other pictorial walkthroughs of a Habitat build can be found at www.lakeshorehabitat.org and clicking under "Current Schedule."*

Framing Part I

More often than not, when one thinks of working on a Habitat House, the image that comes to mind is of the house being "framed in."

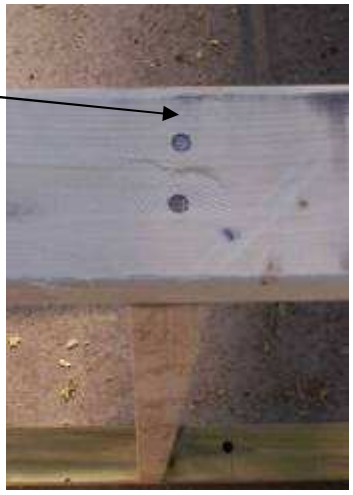
If you arrive on the first day of framing, then the site will probably look something like this:

By the first day, the concrete will have been poured and there will be bundled material waiting to be opened. The supervisor (one of the three on the left) will be reading the blueprint and "laying out" walls to be nailed together. You can see a wall being assembled on the concrete floor.

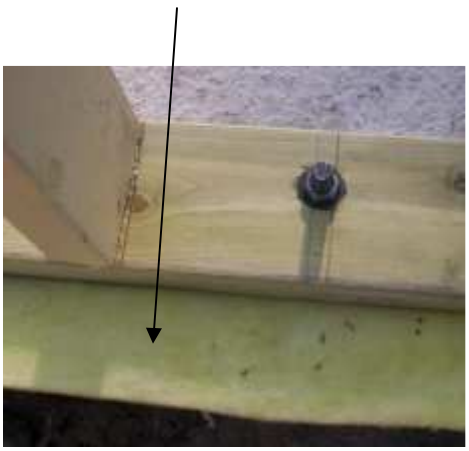
When building a Bi-Level house (a house whose bottom floor is half buried – almost a basement), the first walls built will be the exterior "half-walls" that bring the bottom floor to a livable height. Here is what a finished half-wall looks like:

Notice the yellow **sill-seal** between the built half-wall and the concrete wall. Also notice the **blue-board** that has been glued to the inside of the concrete wall. The sill seal acts as a barrier against bugs, and the blue board provides insulation.

The picture on the right shows the correct way to nail a wall together. Two **16 penny** nails are used.



The picture below shows how the finished half wall is fastened to the concrete wall. ¾" nuts are screwed onto the bolt protruding from the wall. Notice the sill seal under the half wall.



The interior walls (built to standard height) are assembled in a similar fashion, but are fastened to the floor using a Ramset powdered fastener (a tool that uses a .22 caliber charge to "shoot" a nail through the bottom plate of the wall into the concrete).

Sill-Seal: a product commonly made from fiberglass or foam. 6" wide and up to 50' in length, these strips act as a barrier against bugs when put between wooden walls and concrete. Sill-seal is used only with exterior walls on concrete.

16 Penny Nail: nails come in different lengths which are designated by the moniker "Penny." The term "Penny" is not only ancient, but relatively useless in determining the relationship between sizes: a 16 Penny nail is not twice as big as an 8 Penny nail. A 16 Penny nail is 3 ½" long; an 8 Penny nail is 2 ½" long.

A 16 Penny nail is most commonly used for framing. You will use 8 Penny nails when nailing sheathing to the framing (see Part II).

Blue Board: a type of Styrofoam insulation that comes in 4'x8' sheets. We use 1" board on both interior and exterior of our Bi-Level homes. When used inside, the foam helps keeps the cold from coming through the foundation. When used outside (see Part II), it helps keep heat from leaving the house.