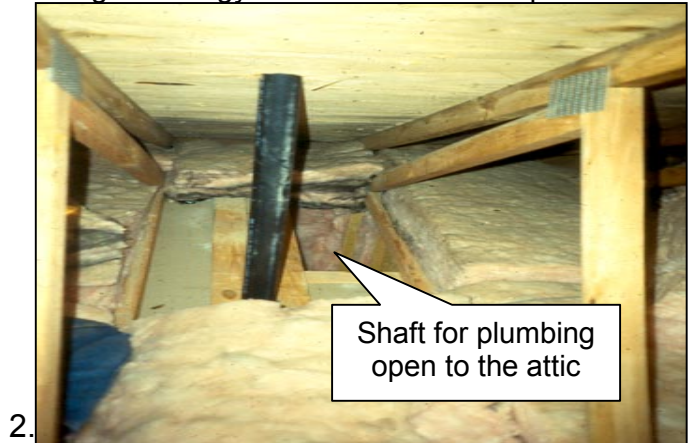
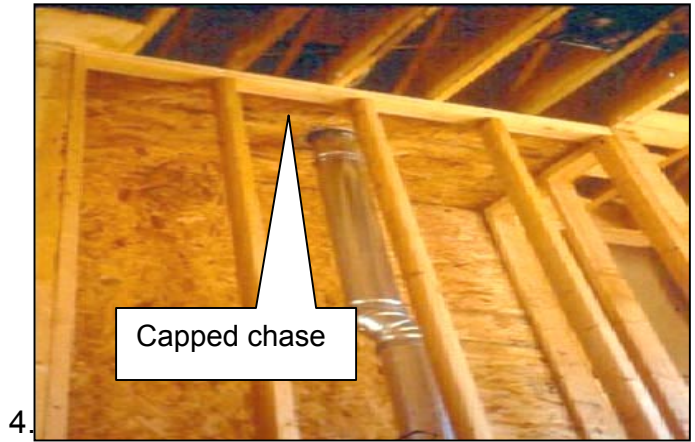
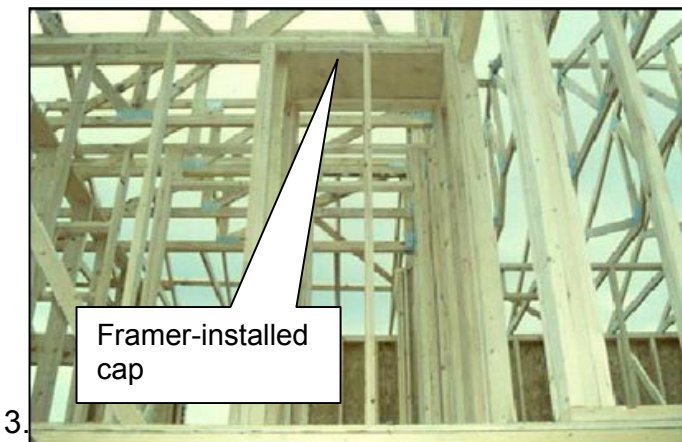


Shafts and Chases

All shafts and chases that terminate in the attic are a potential source of heat loss and gain. When left open to the attic, shown in pictures one and two, they may result in higher energy use and comfort complaints.



The framer should cap all shafts and chases during the framing stage. This can be accomplished using rigid sheathing such as Oriented Strand Board, plywood, Thermoply™ or sheetrock. Picture three and four are good examples of shafts or chases that have been capped during framing.



When venting, ducting, piping or wiring penetrate the framing cap, it should be air sealed to stop air leakage to the attic. Picture five shows the most common approach to dealing with leakage between the house and the attic. This approach does not stop air leakage. Picture six shows the penetration sealed with mastic. It could also be sealed with foam or caulk.

