

Regal Home Inspections, LLC

Find of the Week 6/8/2019

I came across this in a house inspected during the week ending June 8. A built up beam is a beam that is made up of multiple pieces of wood. Usually three 2 x 10 or 2 x 12 pieces of dimensional lumber are nailed together to form one beam. Whenever there's a seam where pieces of the built up beam meet end to end, that seam must be over a vertical column. Let's say you need to make a 20 foot long beam. We can nail three pieces of 2 x 10 together twice and then put them end to end to make a 20 foot long beam AS LONG AS the seam at 10 feet is on top of a column.

In this case, two sections of a three piece built up beam have seams that are not over a column. Essentially, one of the three parts to the built up beam is holding the whole thing up.

Of course this is a material defect in accordance with the NJ home inspection standards of practice.

