

# Loft / Bunk Beds Attached to a Wall

## Assembly Instructions

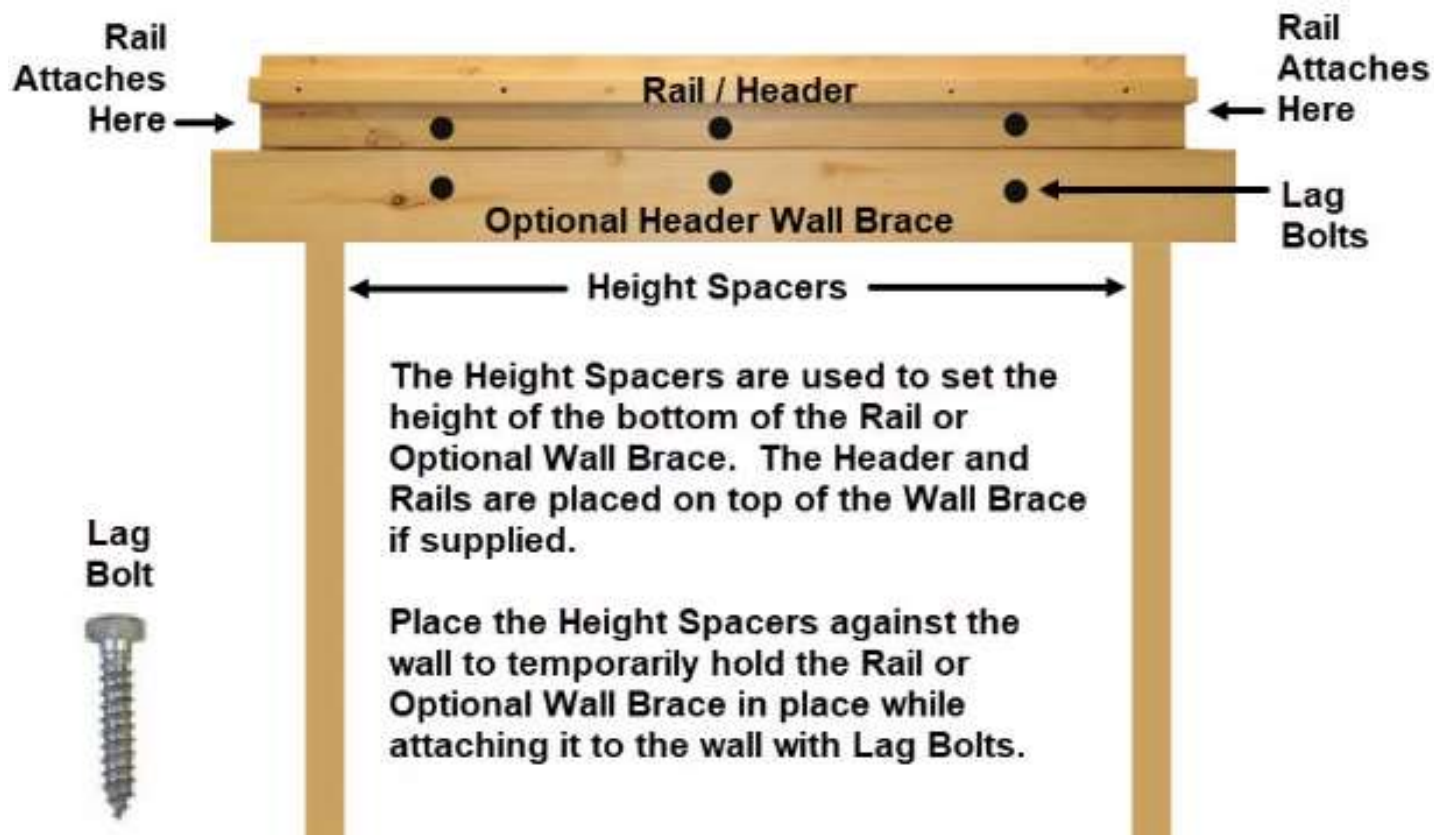
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With a bed attached to a wall you basically have a bed frame attached to one, two or three walls and legs (corner posts) to support the end that is not attached to a wall. As part of our build process we will send you a picture of your completed bed as a reference guide for your assembly process. We assume that you have basic woodworking skills such as being able to find the exact center of a wood wall stud and being able to drill holes. You also have to be aware of any pipes and wiring that may be inside the wall. When drilling into a wall, do it very slowly and if you hit something that feels different from wood, such as metal then stop immediately. Remember you are first drilling through drywall (which produces a lot of fine dust) and then into the wood wall stud. The wall must have wooden studs, 2x4 or greater in size.

If you need help to find the wall studs please see this YouTube video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3jVfPdrWi8> or Google "how to find the center of a wall stud".

Please read through the entire set of instructions first to familiarize yourself with the entire process before beginning assembly. The frame will be heavy. You need at least two people, preferably three to do this assembly.

Since each bed is customized to your exact specifications, the instructions here will not be specific as to the height of assembly. We suggest you first lay out all the pieces on the floor to see how they all fit together. Place the leg(s) up against the wall to mark exactly where the rails and headers will be located to insure the bed frame is level. For the Ladder, Shelves and Safety Rail assembly you follow the standard loft / bunk bed assembly instructions.



For the short (width) ends of beds that are attached to a wall, we provide an Optional Wall Brace. This will give you more support as it basically doubles the number of Lag Bolts used to support the end of the bed. See picture on Page 2.

The rails and headers are attached to the wall with Lag Bolts that are screwed into the wall studs. Since we don't know where your wall studs are located we do not pre-drill pilot holes into the headers. You need to locate the exact center of the wall studs and drill holes into the headers with a 3/8" drill bit and a 1/4" drill bit into the wall stud. Typically there is a wall stud every 16". Use 4-1/2" Lag Bolts when going through 1-1/2" thick wood and use 6" Lag Bolts when going through 3" thick wood.



This example shows a bed attached to the right and back wall. A sample Wall Brace is shown in the picture on the right wall. It has been painted to match the wall color so it is not as noticeable.

## Build the Frame

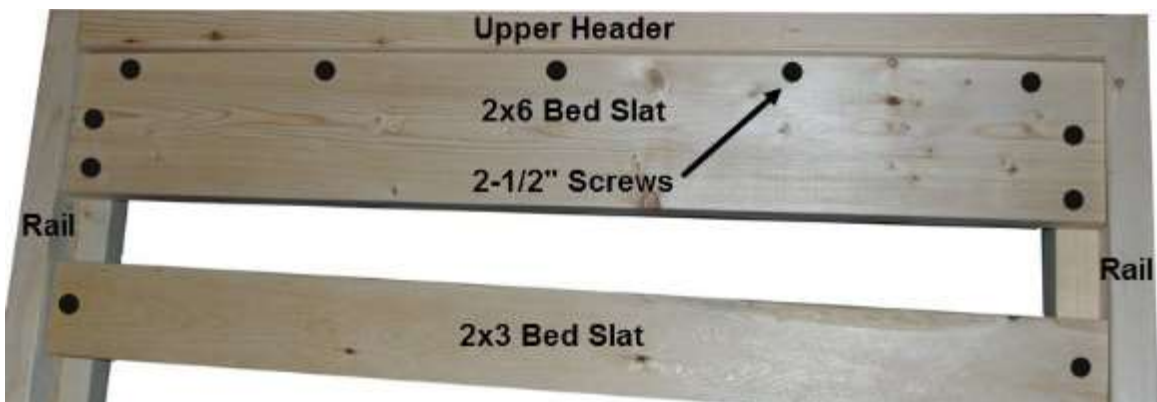
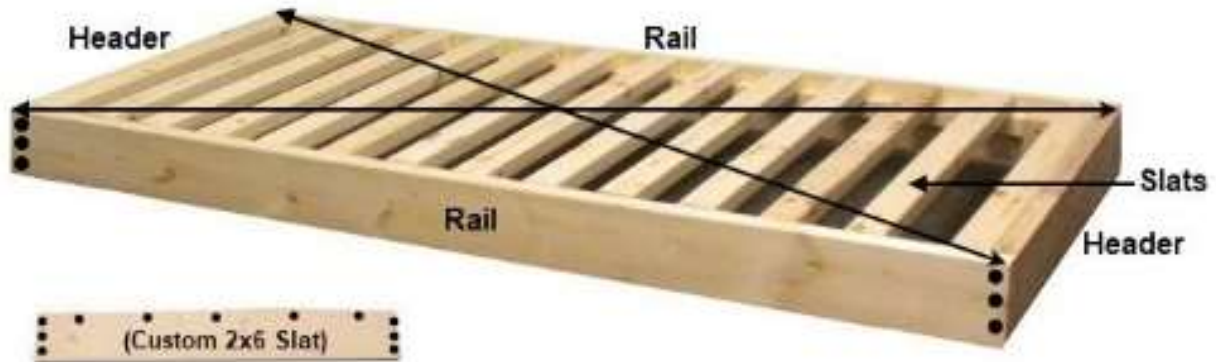
Attach the Headers to the Rails with 2-1/2" screws into the pilot holes through the Rail into the Header. The Headers fit inside the Rails. Make sure the bed is square. The easiest way to do this is to measure the diagonal from the top of one end to the bottom of the other end. When the lengths are different you need to move the Headers and Rails to get both values to be the same.

## Attach Frame to the Wall

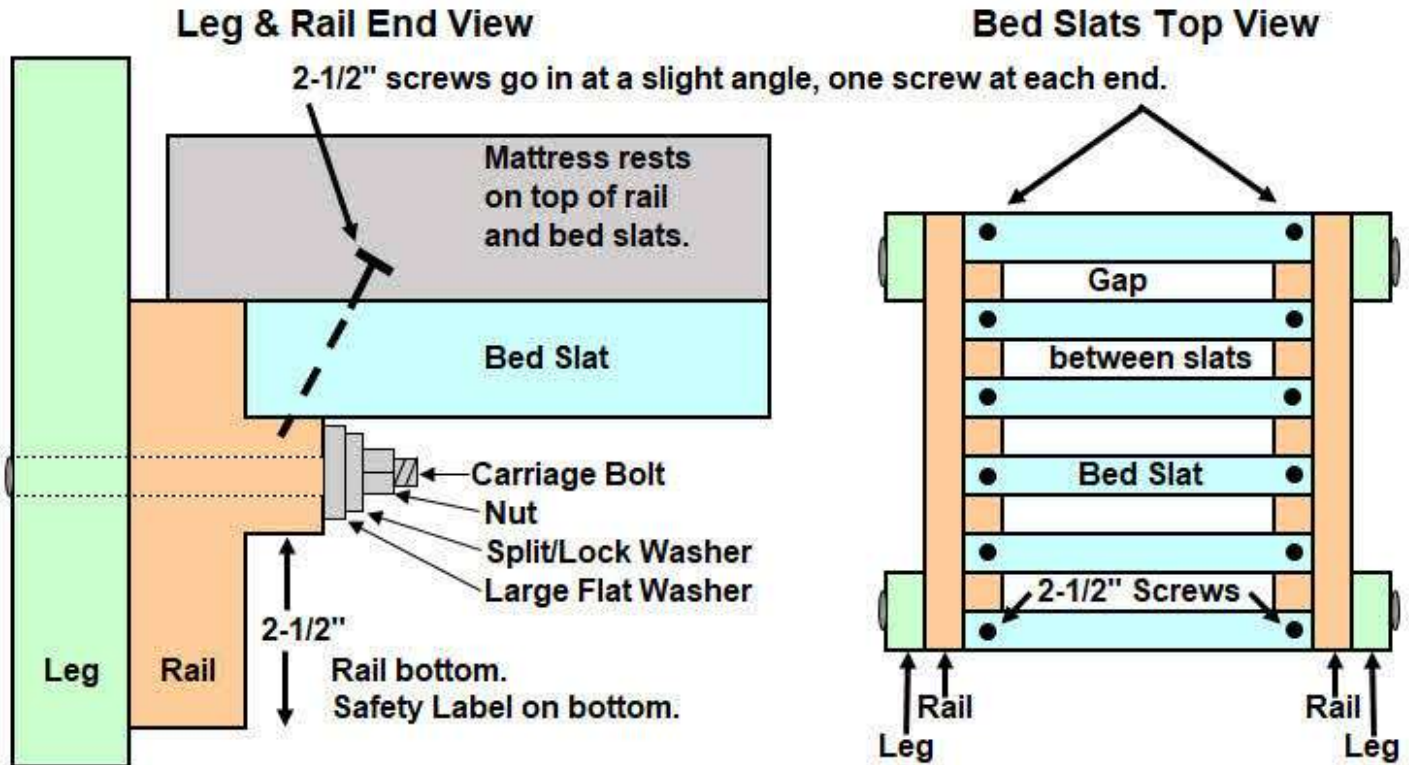
Please note that most walls are not perfectly square. When attaching the frame to the wall you may need to adjust by adding shims behind the rail or header to make the bed square. Use the corner post to determine the height of the frame and mark the wall and wall studs. Make sure the frame is level. The leg(s) (corner post) is attached to the frame with a carriage bolt through the outside of the post. Attach a washer, lock washer and nut on the inside and tighten.

## Attach the Bed Slats

Attach the slats with 2-1/2" screws spacing the slats 3" apart. If you have Custom 2x6 Slats at each end they will be marked as such and those ends should be installed tight against the headers with the pilot holes on the long edge up against the Header. Please Note: The width of two slats is 3", you can use this as a guide for giving you the 3" space between the slats. Below is a picture of the frame with the bed slats attached.



# Attach Bed Slats



**Bed Slats: Twin 38", Full 53", Queen 59". Bed slats have 1 pilot hole at each end.**

**Please Note:** If you also ordered the **Solid Platform** (1/8" MDF sheets) you need to first space the sheets out on the top of the bed slats to make sure a bed slat underneath is in-between where two sheets are joined together. Put a pencil mark on the rails where each sheet starts and ends as a guide. A bed slat must be installed underneath each long edge of the sheet. You can adjust the spacing between the slats to make sure it is underneath a sheet. Please read the **Solid Platform Assembly Instructions** first for more information.

**Bed Slat Installation:** Starting at the opposite end from the entrance, fasten all the bed slats to the front and back rails using 2½" screws spacing the slats 3" apart. Hint: The width of two slats is 3", use that as a spacer between slats. The pilot holes at the ends of each slat are very close to the edge and if it is split it is ok as the screw is only used to prevent the slat from sliding around. It is ok if the slats have a slight twist or do not lay perfectly flat, they will still support the mattress and give the strength and stability needed. If the screw hits the carriage bolt you may move the slat a little to avoid hitting the carriage bolt. If you are climbing up the end with the built-in ladder, leave a 2" gap between the first slat and the top rung of the ladder for the Safety Rail Brace. If you have extra slats place them at the entrance end.

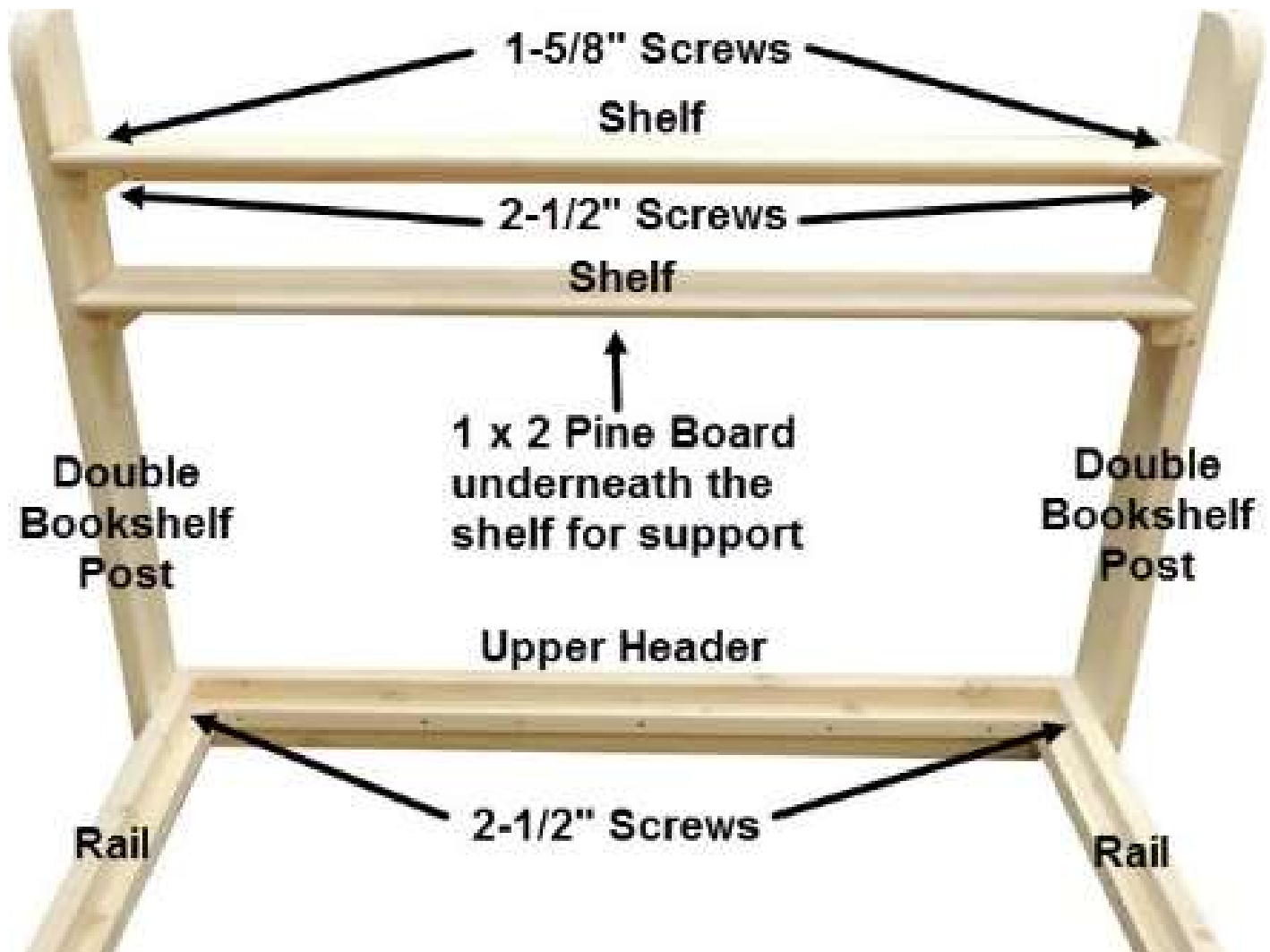
## Example of installed Bed Slats





## Optional Double Bookshelf Headboard

If you also ordered the Double Bookshelf Headboard it gets attached to the Rails and/or the wall. If the Headboard is at the open end not up against a wall it is attached as shown in the picture below. If it is up against a wall then the Double Bookshelf Posts are different sizes. The longer post is used on the outside of the rail and it attached from the back of the rail with 2-1/2" screws. The shorter post is installed on top of the rail with 2-1/2" screws going into the corner where the two walls meet.



# General Notes & Tips

The assembly instructions refer to the **Front**, **Back** and **Ends** of the bed. The **Front** is the long side. The **Back** is the long side opposite the Front.

**Screws:** It is okay if you end up with extra screws since we include extra in the packaging.

If you ordered multiple beds, the major components are packed in separate boxes and are labeled as Bed #1, #2. Some accessories such as Safety Rails and Shelving may be packed together in the same box. We recommend you assemble one bed at a time. You will find assembling the next bed will go much faster once you have completed the first bed.

**Tools and Supplies Needed:** Cordless drill/screwdriver with a Phillips #2 medium head bit. Adjustable (or 9/16") wrench. Hammer or rubber mallet. Note: If you use a regular electric drill, it needs to have an adjustable torque setting so as to not strip the screws into the wood. Optionally you could use a small tube of wood filler to fill in the screw holes and a few sheets of 80 grit sandpaper to sand the wood filler smooth before finishing the bed.

Assembly takes roughly 2-3 hours for the basic loft bed, and 30 minutes for each optional accessory and about 1 hour for the Desks and Steps & Open Shelves. It is easiest if you have two people doing it. If you are not sure how to install a piece always refer back to the photo on page 1 to see how everything fits together.

Pilot holes have been predrilled into all necessary pieces, they do not go all the way through the wood and are only on the piece being attached. If you are having a hard time driving screws into the wood you may want to add soap to the screws. Soap acts as a lubricant and makes driving them into the wood easier. If you hit a knot, screw or a carriage bolt you can drive the screw at a slight angle to miss it.

If you strip a screw into the wood, a trick to make the hole smaller is to fill the hole with wood glue and hammer in a few wood toothpicks into the hole. Once the glue dries cut off the excess toothpicks and you can re-insert the screw into the hole. You can also change the angle of the screw or move it slightly to go into a new clean section into the wood.

You may also install additional screws as needed. We recommend you use a 1/8" drill bit to pre-drill pilot holes to prevent the wood from splitting.

**Box Packing:** In some boxes (desk, shelving, etc.) we may have Edge Protectors and Spacers inside the box that are used for protecting the items from shipping damage. They will be marked as "**Scrap**". They are not needed and may be discarded.

**Pre-Assembled Beds:** If your bed was pre-assembled for a picture and then dis-assembled, there will be a few additional pilot holes where we screwed the pieces together. During this process we only use a few screws to hold the pieces together for the picture.

## Safety

Think safety when using power tools, hammers and drills. Wear gloves and safety glasses. Watch for splinters near the end grain of the wood. Provide adequate ventilation when sanding, painting or staining.

**Lumber Sizing:** 2x2's are roughly 1½" x 1½", 2x3's are 1½" x 2½", 2x4's are 1½" x 3½", 2x6's are 1½" x 5½" and after sanding the boards will be slightly smaller.

As a general rule for selecting the **proper screw length**, the length of the screw needed is based on the thickness of the piece being attached. If the piece is ¾" (shelving for example) thick then use 1-5/8" screws. If the piece is 1" or greater in thickness then use 2-1/2" screws. Always make sure the overall length of the screw is less than the combined thickness of the pieces used. **The 1-1/4" screws are used to attach the Backboard to the Double Bookshelf Headboard.**

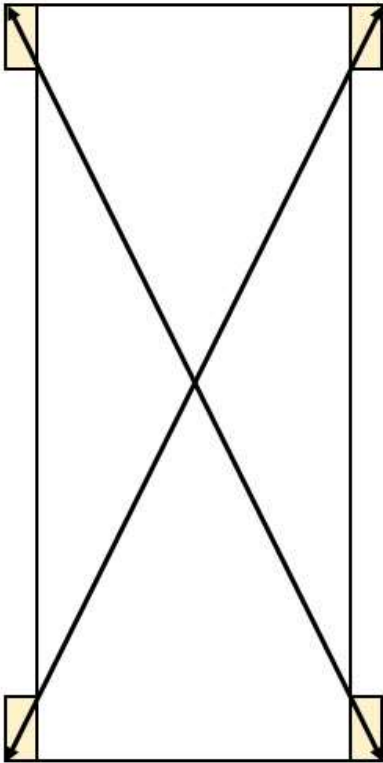
**Sometimes when attaching two boards together, the bottom board will be pushed away from the top board and will not have a tight fit. When this happens slowly drive the screw half-way into the bottom board, then unscrew it so it is just slightly comes out of the bottom board, squeeze the boards together then drive the screw all the way back in. The screw should recess about 1/8" into the top board to make a nice tight fit.**

## Finishing the Bed

For help on finishing the see our Frequently Asked Questions at: <http://www.collegebedlofts.com/faq.html#painting>

# How to make sure your bed is Square

Top View Of Bed

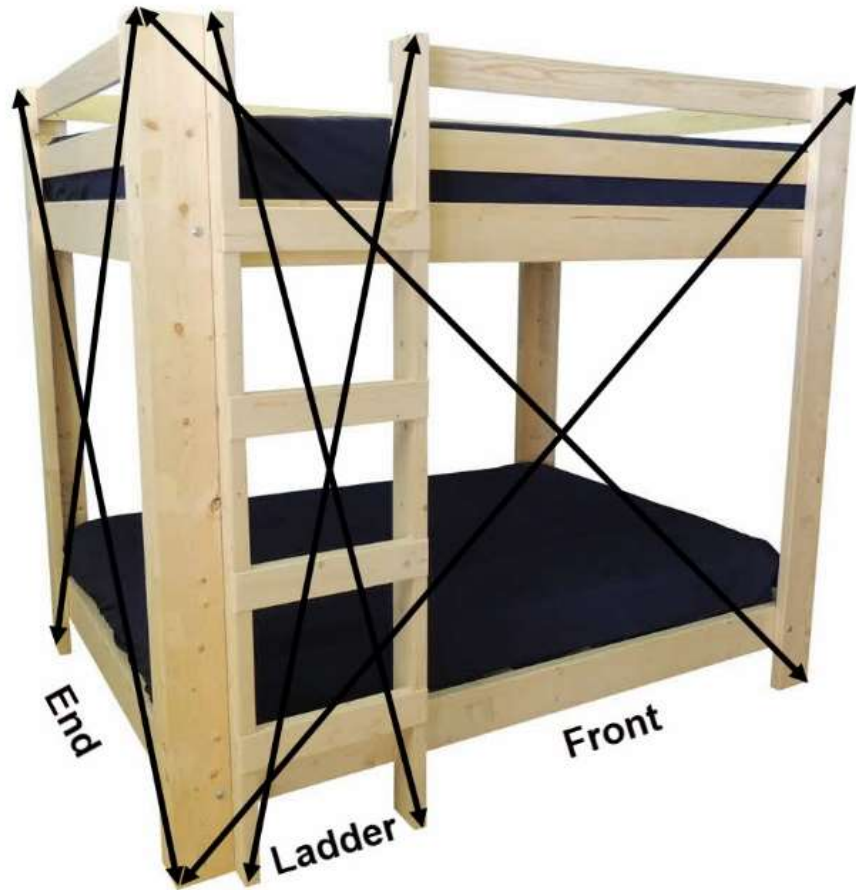


< Move this end Left or Right until >  
both diagonal lengths are equal

As you are assembling your bed make sure it is Square. Square basically means the pieces are vertical or horizontal and parallel to each other. If you don't have a Level or Square you can measure the bed.

Remember 10th grade geometry? The easiest way to do this is to measure the diagonal from the top of one end to the bottom of the other end. When the lengths are different you need to move the pieces in or out to get both values to be the same. Once they are the same (or within 1" of each other) then they are Square.

The diagrams show arrows as examples of what to measure. You can measure the Front, Back, Ends and Ladder to make sure the bed frame is Square. You can also measure the Top from corner to corner to make sure the footprint is square.



**Assembled With-in 30 Days:** We require that the loft be assembled within 30 days of delivery. If left unassembled for a longer period of time, under some climate conditions unfinished wood may shrink or warp and some of the pieces may not fit properly. For example, our beds are manufactured in the Northeastern US, a cool and humid environment. If it is shipped to the Southwestern US, a hot and dry environment it will quickly dry out. If it is not assembled, this rapid drying could warp the wood. **The warranty is void if the loft is not assembled within 30 days of arrival.**

Prior to returning the unit to us, the customer must contact us to obtain a Return Authorization (RA) number, the RA number must be written on all returned packages. Lofts returned without RA numbers will not be refunded. Send Returns to: College Bed Lofts, 382 Upper Oakwood Ave., Elmira, NY 14903.

If this bed is to be used in an institutional environment (i.e. dorm room), a single safety rail must be installed on the front (long) side, and if the back side is not firmly up against a wall, a back safety rail must be used. If this bed is not in an institutional environment, then safety rails must be installed on all 4 sides with an opening to be able to climb in. The customer must follow the assembly instructions. Because of the very nature of sleeping on an elevated surface, there are obvious and inherent risks involved due to falling. This risk is enhanced when consciousness is limited or impaired due to sleep, lack of sleep, illness, consumption of alcohol, taking medications, inhalation of smoke or similar factors. The bed is an all natural wood product and will burn when fire or sufficient heat is present. No horseplay, jumping or leaning over the edge is allowed on this bed. You must use the ladder to climb up into the upper bunk. Customers who choose to use our bed shall be deemed to have assumed all risks of accidents, injury and property damage associated with their use.

**The safety rail must be in use at all times.**

