



O-Ring: Round rubber washer or gasket that is compressed to create a watertight seal, typically in a compression fitting.

O. G. (or Ogee): A molding with a profile in the form of a letter S; having the outline of a reversed curve.

Oakum: Loose hemp or jute fiber that is impregnated with tar or pitch and used to caulk large seams or for packing plumbing pipe joints.

Observations: Those potential items of interest noted by the inspector during the walk-through survey portion of the inspection.

Observe: To see through visually directed attention.

Obvious: A condition or fact not likely to be ignored or overlooked.

Occupancy Load: The number of people permitted in a building based on the means of egress.

Occupant: Any individual living, sleeping, or having possession of a space within a building.

OD (Outside Diameter): A measurement of the diameter of a pipe as taken from the outside edge. A common method for sizing pipe.

Offset: A tubular component which permits the offsetting of a drainage run in the same basic direction.

Ohm's Law: States that, in a given electrical circuit, the amount of current in amps is equal to the pressure in volts divided by the resistance in ohms. The formula is: I (Current) = V voltage or $V = I \times R$ R resistance or $R = V/I$.

Ohmmeter: In electrical contracting, a device to measure the resistance across a load. They are never used on a live circuit. Used to track down broken wires.

Oil-Canning: The term describing distortion of thin-gauge metal panels which are fastened in a manner restricting normal thermal movement.

On Center (O.C.): A measurement term meaning a certain distance between like materials. Studs, rafters, joists, and the like in a building placed at 16 inches O.C. will be laid out so that there is 16 inches from the center of one stud to the center of the next.

Open Hole Inspection: When an engineer (or municipal inspector) inspects the open excavation and examines the earth to determine the type of foundation (caisson, footer, wall on ground, etc.) that should be installed in the hole.

Open Valley: Method of valley construction in which shingles on both sides of the valley are trimmed along a chalk line snapped on each side of the valley. Shingles do not extend across the valley. Valley flashing is exposed.

Operate: To cause systems to function or turn on with normal operating controls.

Operational: Systems or components capable of being safely operated.

Oral Consultation: A limited visual inspection of specific systems, structures, or components of a building where no written report is prepared by the inspector and the inspector's findings, opinions, conclusions, and recommendations are orally communicated by the inspector to the client.

Organic: A term designating any chemical compound which contains carbon and hydrogen.

Organic Felt: An asphalt roofing base material manufactured from cellulose fibers.

Oriented Strand Board (OSB, Chip Board, Wafer Board): A manufactured wood panel made out of 1"- 2" wood chips and glue. Often used as a substitute for plywood in the exterior wall and roof sheathing.

Outrigger: An extension of a rafter beyond the wall line. Usually a smaller member nailed to a larger rafter to form a cornice or roof overhang.

Overhang: That part of the roof structure which extends horizontally beyond the vertical plane of the exterior walls of a building.

Owner: Any person, agent, operator, firm or corporation having a legal or equitable interest in a property.

Oxidize: To combine with oxygen in the air.