Exterior Wall Section Fabrication Process

1. Wall Framing

    - Lay out the wall section sole and top plates with all the prefabricated components in the places marked on the plates
    - **Measure all studs for correct length** (104.5 inches for 9-foot walls and 92.5 inches for 8-foot walls)
    - Place **all studs with the crown side up** - ensure that the end studs in particular are not bowed
    - First nail in place all headers and king studs then install jacks ensuring they are tight against both the headers and sole plates. (Note that jacks for LVL window headers are 1/4" longer than those for 2x12 headers)
    - Nail studs, cripples and any prefabricated components in place ensuring that all joints at the plate are even. **Ensure that only galvanized nails are used for the sole plate stud and sheathing nailing**

2. Install all fire blocking (4.5 feet up from the sole plate for 9-foot walls; 4 feet for 8-foot walls) and check to ensure that the end studs are straight.
3. Square the wall section along a straight chalk line (toe nail the sole plate to the deck if possible.
4. Tack nail at the four corners all the sheets of sheathing needed for the wall section - **check that the sheathing is flush with the edges of the plates and the end studs** - recheck for square and alignment with the chalk line before nailing the sheathing in place.
5. Install TYVEC leaving sufficient overhang at the ends to overlap with the next wall section; cut out window and door openings and mark stud locations on the Tyvek with a felt tip pen.
6. Stand the wall section up and check for fit with the adjacent section before attaching the sole plate to the floor - ensure the wall section is plumb before securing it in place with temporary bracing.
7. Prior to installing the second top plate, re-plumb all walls using a plumb bob and check the top plate wall-to-wall measurements against those for the sole plates.