

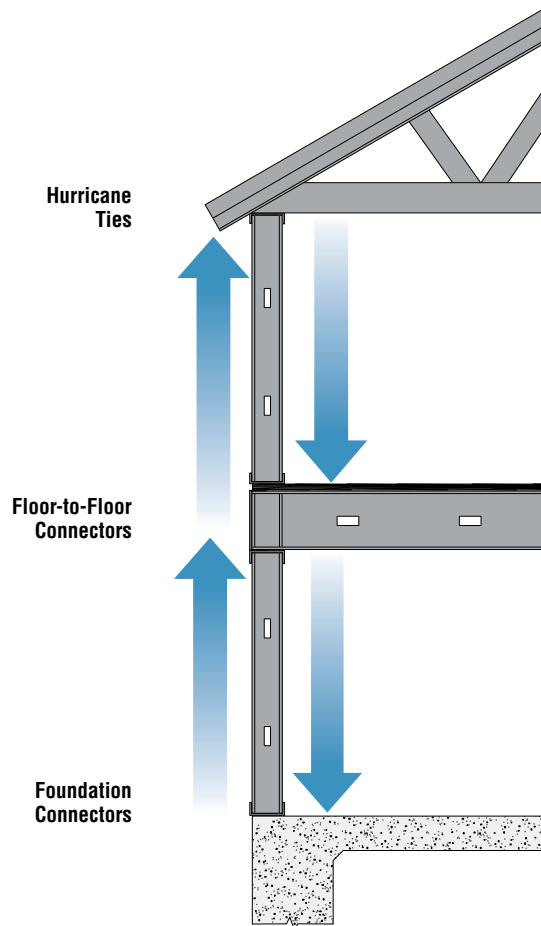
# CONTINUOUS LOAD PATH CONSIDERATIONS

Modern design and construction practices use structural connectors to form a **continuous load path** that can effectively resist wind and seismic forces by reinforcing the structure from the roof to the foundation.

Simpson Strong-Tie® connectors are designed to enable structures to resist the movement, stress, and loading that results from natural events such as earthquakes and high velocity winds. When properly installed, our connectors will perform in accordance with the specifications set forth in this catalog, given the correct fastener is used, in the provided holes, into the recommended base material.

In cold-formed steel framing, connectors such as holdowns, straps, angles and hurricane ties are often field-fabricated. However, field-fabricated connectors in general have not been designed and tested to determine their ultimate and allowable load capacity and are typically not code listed. Field-fabricated connectors consume valuable man-hours on the jobsite and typically do not have prepunched holes. Because of this, the installer may not be properly locating the fasteners to achieve the intended design load.

Simpson Strong-Tie connectors are the most thoroughly tested and evaluated products in the industry, value engineered for the lowest installed cost at the highest rated performance levels. Our connectors save the contractor time in the field, and when properly specified and installed, provide an easier installation, at a lower installed cost, and are warranted for accuracy of design. This should be taken in consideration when considering field-fabricated connectors.



This shows a continuous load transfer path from the trusses to the foundation. A qualified Designer should ensure that correct quantities, fasteners and installation methods are used to achieve full design values.



The Designer can also refer to our current *Wood Construction Connector* catalog. Many of the connectors listed there may be used for cold-formed steel construction, using the screw values found in this catalog.

*This catalog reflects changes in the allowable loads and configurations of some Simpson Strong-Tie Company Inc. products. **This catalog is effective until December 31, 2009,** and supersedes all information in all earlier publications, including catalogs, brochures, fliers, technical bulletins, etc. Use this edition as a current printed reference. Information on allowable loads and configurations is updated annually.*

**We post our catalogs on [www.strongtie.com](http://www.strongtie.com). Please visit our site, and sign up for any information updates.** Allowable loads in this catalog are for the described specific applications of properly-installed products. Product modifications, improper loading or installation procedures, or deviations from recommended applications will affect connector allowable load-carrying capacities.