

Swing Fit Guide

We often hear from customers who are limited for space on their porch or in an interior room where they are wanting to install one of our bed swings, "Will my swing fit this space?" This is a guide to help you determine if the swing you are looking at buying will fit the space you want it in, and will also help you determine what size swing you can fit into a space.

Nested Porch Swings strongly recommends that customers hire a licensed, insured, and professional contractor to perform the installation of your swing. It is very important to make sure the swing is properly secured and installed into the center structural ceiling joists to avoid any potential damages to your house or potential injuries as the result of improper installation.

Step #1

The ceiling joists are the driver of swing mounting and locations that will work. The key is to find one and know the direction it is running and then you can take measurements off of that point.

The first and most important step of determining where a swing can go and how it will work in a space is to assess direction and spacing of the structural ceiling joists that the lag eye screws that support the swing to the ceiling will be mounting into. Generally ceiling joists are 16 inches on center- meaning from the center of one ceiling joist to the center of the next one over should be 16 inches. Older homes sometimes use 24" spacing for ceiling joists. We recommend mounting the lag eye screws provided with your swing purchase into the center of the ceiling joist with the joist being no smaller than a 2x6.

If you have exposed structural beams on your ceiling where you are installing your swing, you can skip to the next section.

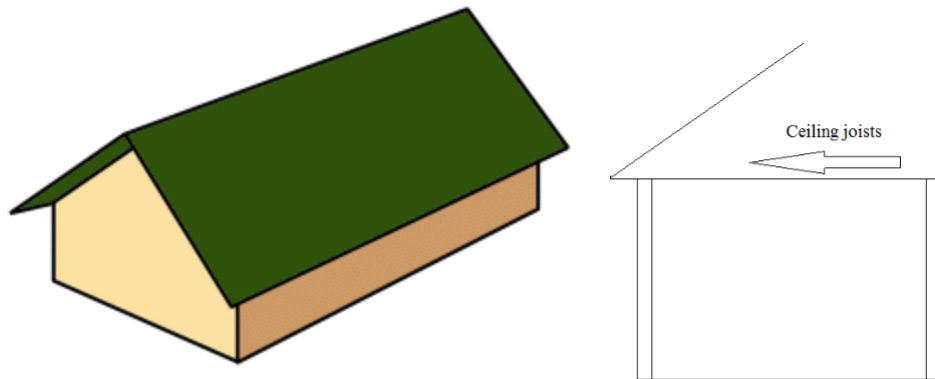
****Tips for locating your ceiling joists:**

- Use a stud finder tool to help locate the structural timbers above the ceiling
- Look for nails or screws where the ceiling material (bead board, tongue and groove ceiling, sheetrock, etc.) is attached to the ceiling joists above. If you see these nails in a row, that more than likely means the ceiling joist is running the direction of the nails in the row.
- Use your hand and lightly pound your fist on the ceiling, areas when you are hitting under a joist will sound solid and areas where you are not will sound hollow.
- If you have access to look at the crawl space above the ceiling to look at the ceiling joists that can be helpful.
- Remove a ceiling mounted speaker or light and look around with a flashlight for the closest ceiling joist.
- Drill holes or a screw into the ceiling until you hit a ceiling joist- This method is usually of a last resort as it will require repair.

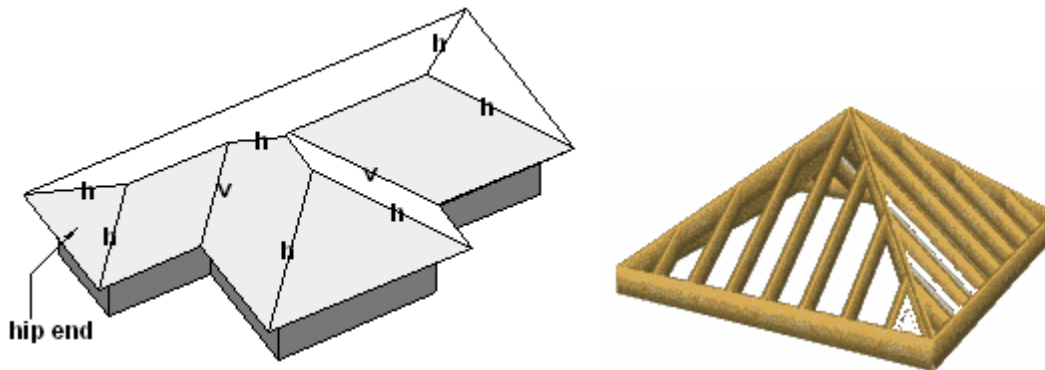
*****Tips for determining your ceiling joist direction:**

- Look at the exterior slope of your porch roof. For the most part, ceiling joists will be going the

same direction as the slope of your porch roof (the shingle or metal roof on the outside of your house-not your porch ceiling) section of your house you are looking at.



-If the slope of your porch ceiling changes directions creating a “hip roof” then it becomes a little more difficult. In a roof that looks like image below, the ceiling joists change direction in the corner but should still be 16” on center.

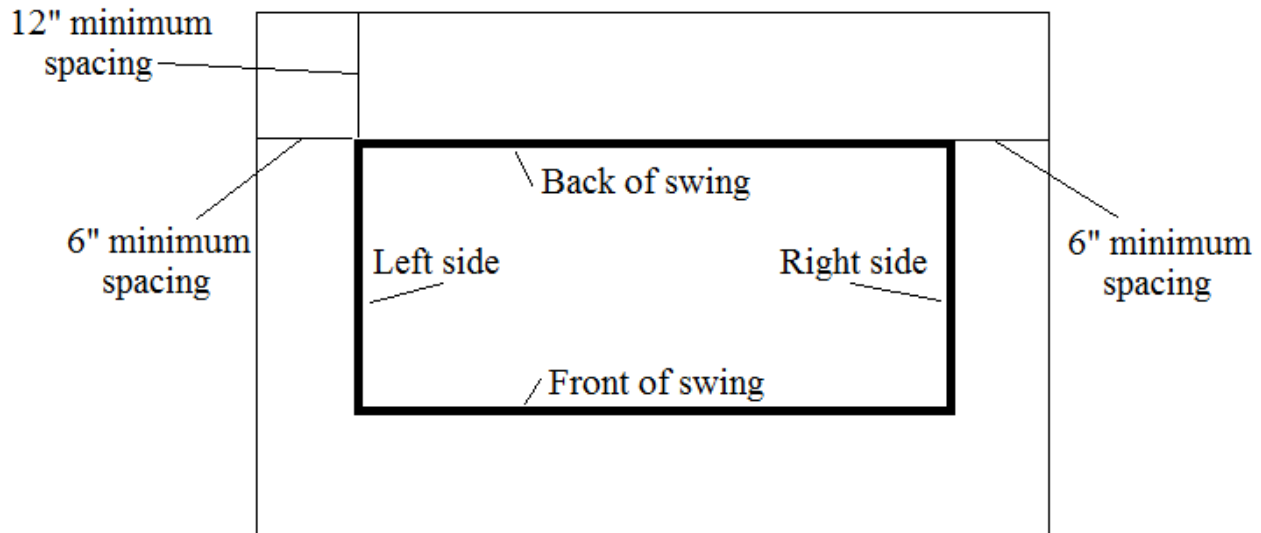


The hip roof installations require more planning on which particular joists you will use and locations or the relative ceiling joists going the opposite direction if trying to place the swing in the corner.

*If your porch ceiling is slanted, the joists will almost always be going the same direction as the ceiling is slanted.

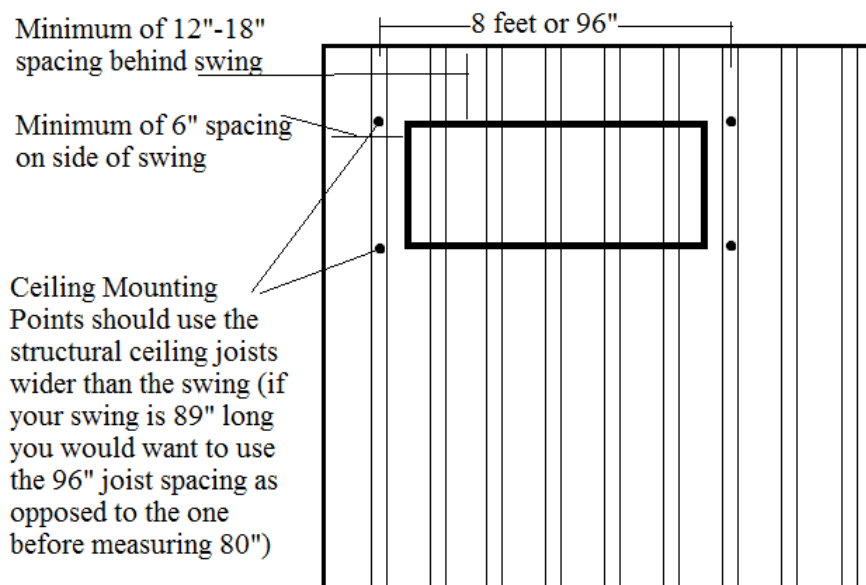
Step #2

Now that you determined the spacing and direction of your structural ceiling joists, you can assess which model swing will work in this space. The sizing of our standard sized twin swings vary depending on the design or the way that the rope attaches to the swing. This next section will go over the recommended spacing of any swing in relation to the walls or any other obstructions around where you want to put the swing.

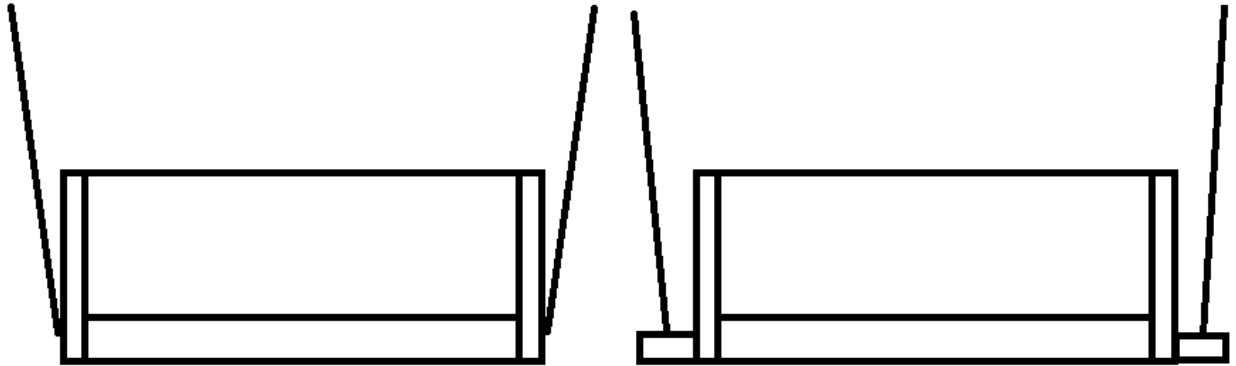


Imagine that the bold box in the middle of above diagram is your bed swing once assembled. The edges of the bold box would reflect the exterior dimensions of your swing. Then imagine the larger box is the space where you want to put the swing. We recommend a minimum of 6" of space from any obstructions on each side of the swing and a minimum of 12" behind the swing. The space in the diagram above would reflect the smallest space that a swing would work. Placing your swing closer to any obstruction may hinder the swing's movement, cause damage to your house, or the swing itself.

***Please keep in mind that if a standard sized swing will not fit in a space, we offer the option to do a custom sized swing to accommodate a smaller space.

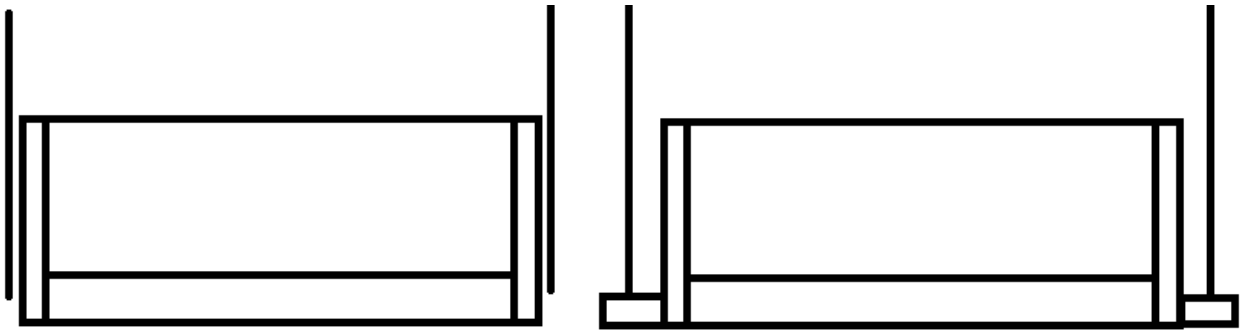


** The mounting points into the ceiling joists need to be wider than the length of the swing to keep the ropes from rubbing on the handrails.

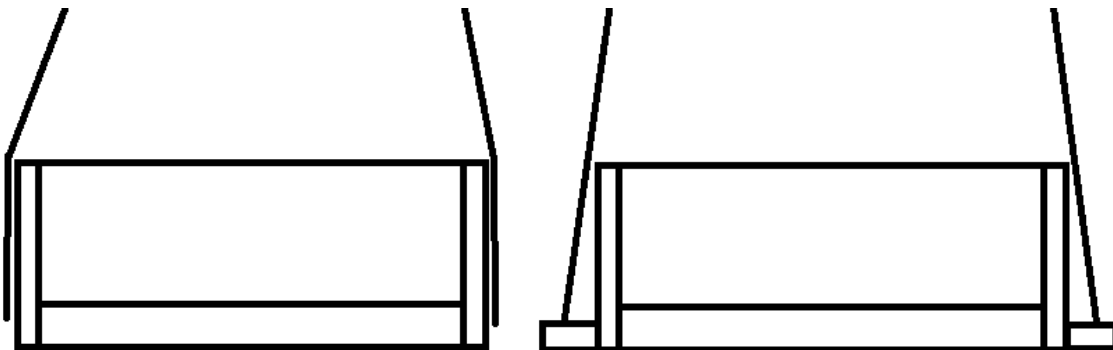


The above diagram is generally how the ropes will look if the mounting points are wider than the length of the swing. Ceiling height as well as joist spacing can affect the angle of the ropes.

**All of our swings can be mounted to a 96" joist spacing which will work on 16" on center or 24" on center joist spacing.



The above diagram shows the ropes going straight up. To achieve this look you will more than likely have to have special blocking installed in your ceiling joists. Please see table on the next page that shows swing hole spacing for blocking. This is generally not an option on an older home unless you have access to the ceiling joists above the finished ceiling, or unless you have exposed beams.



The above diagram shows how the ropes will look if the mounting points in the ceiling joists are narrower than the swing. This is not recommended as it will limit the swinging motion and may cause the rope to rub on the side of your swing and could potentially rub the finish off of your swing on the sides.