

LINE WEIGHT REFERENCE

A quick reference for architectural line weights, symbols, and labeling conventions.

LINE WEIGHTS

Thick

Cut lines - walls, floors, and sections cut by the drawing plane. The heaviest weight on any drawing.

Medium

Object lines - edges of furniture, cabinets, fixtures, and objects visible but not cut through.

Thin

Detail lines - hatching, dimension lines, leaders, and annotation. Lightest continuous weight.

Dashed

Hidden lines - elements above or below the cut plane, such as upper cabinets or beams overhead.

COMMON SYMBOLS

Door

Shown as a line with a 90-degree arc indicating swing direction. The arc shows the path of the door as it opens.

Stairs

Parallel lines with an arrow indicating the direction going up. A break line shows where the stair is cut by the floor above.

Window

Drawn as a thin line within the wall thickness, often with two parallel lines representing the glass pane.

Fixtures

Simplified outlines of toilets, sinks, tubs, and appliances drawn to scale. Standard symbols used across all plans.

LABELING ESSENTIALS

Room Labels

LIVING ROOM 14'-0" x 18'-0"

Centered in the room, uppercase text with dimensions. Include square footage for larger rooms.

Door & Window Tags

D1, D2... / W1, W2...

Sequential tags that reference a door or window schedule with size, type, and hardware details.

Dimension Strings

12'-6" |-----|

Continuous chains of dimensions placed outside the building footprint. Always dimension to wall faces or centerlines.

Section Markers

Circle with section number / sheet number

Indicates where a section cut is taken. Arrow shows the viewing direction. References the sheet where the section is drawn.

Elevation Markers

Circle with elevation number / sheet number

Arrow points toward the face of the building being shown. References the corresponding elevation drawing.

North Arrow

Arrow pointing to true north

Required on every site plan and floor plan. Orient the viewer to the compass direction of the drawing.

Scale Notation

1/4" = 1'-0"

Noted in the title block and below each drawing. Always verify scale matches the printed sheet size.

ANNOTATION TIPS

Keep text sizes consistent: titles largest, room labels medium, dimensions and notes smallest.

Place dimensions outside the floor plan perimeter, not inside rooms.

Use leaders (lines with arrows) to connect notes to specific elements.

Avoid crossing dimension lines over each other or over drawing elements.

Always include a title block with project name, drawing title, scale, date, and north arrow.

Use ALL CAPS for labels and notes on architectural drawings - this is industry standard.