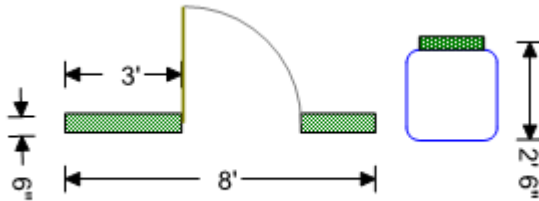


Drawing Dimensions

Very rarely do you draw a bunch of walls or rooms without adding something to show the distances in your drawing. Chances are, you're going to want to add at least a few "dimension lines" to any drawing that you create.

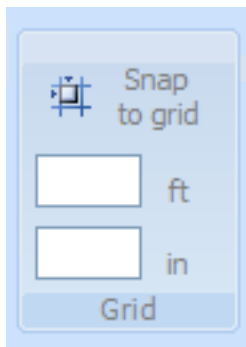


Adding a dimension line is a clean way to show: the distance between two objects in your drawing, the inside length of a wall in an office, or even the width of a wall.

Independent Dimension Line

This is the most basic dimensioning tool available, and it will probably be the one that you use the most if you are using the free version of Easy Blue Print.

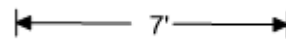
By definition, you'll want to get a precise distance for your dimension line, whether or not you are drawing a 6 inch dimension line, or a 50 ft dimension line. To get the precise distance you want easily, you'll want to first turn on the "snap to grid" tool.



When you draw a **wall** or an **independent dimension** line you can type **any distance** in the "snap to grid" boxes.

This box will force your wall drawing or dimension line drawing to "jump" or "snap" in **increments** (that you specify in the snap to grid boxes). So, if you type 1 foot, your dimension line will be drawn in steps of 1 foot. So, you can easily create a dimension line with a length of 100 ft, 11 ft, 5 ft by first setting the snap

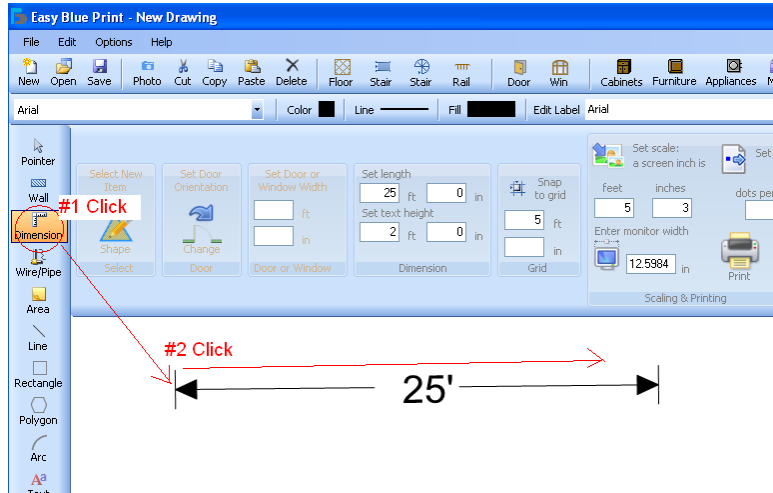
length, and then drawing your dimension line.



Now, in order to create an independent dimension line:

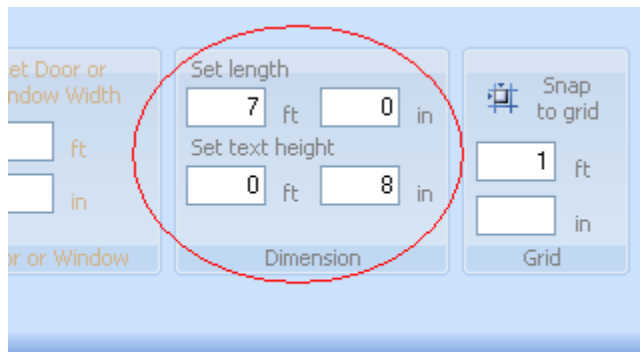
- clear out any values currently in the "snap to grid" boxes
- type in the snap distance you want to use (probably 1 inch or 1 ft)
- click on the Dimension button on the left toolbar (right below the wall button)

- Draw your dimension line (Click your left mouse once to start drawing, and then click it again to stop drawing).



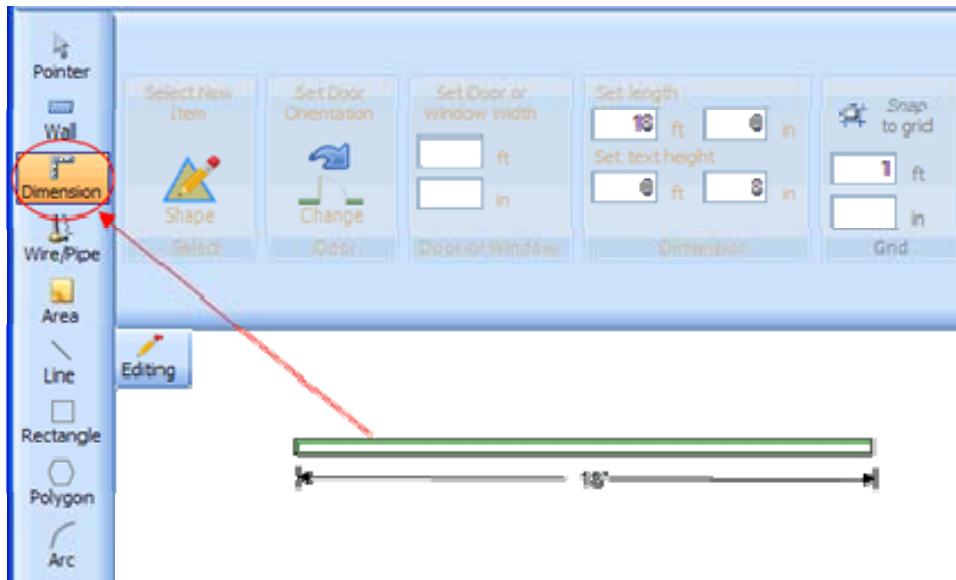
It's important to try to get the angle of your dimension line right when you're drawing it the first time. It also helps to get the length right too (which should be easy if you have the snap length turned on). It's easy to adjust the overall positioning of your dimension line after you finish drawing it: just use the pointer tool to select the dimension line, and then click/slide the dimension line to where you want it placed.

If you **do** need to change the **length** of the dimension line after draw it, **you can actually do so**. Just use your **pointer** tool to **select** the dimension line, and then type in the **length** of your dimension line after you have selected it. You'll find the boxes for editing the dimension line right next to the boxes for the Snap to grid boxes. You'll notice that you can type in some pretty **small** values into the length edit boxes. In fact, you can even make a 6 inch dimension line by using these boxes, if you really want to.



You probably noticed that there were some boxes to “Set text height” in the Independent Dimension Edit area too. These boxes actually let you **change the text height** of your independent dimension line. So, not only can you set the exact length of your dimension line, but you can type in a precise **height** for the **text** of the dimension line as well.

It is not always necessary to create walls or other objects with precise measurements. Simply by drawing a wall or an object with the approximate distance, you can always “fudge” the apparent distance of wall sides by drawing an “independent” dimension line next to the wall or object.



Simply placing a dimension line with the appropriate distance next to a wall may be good enough for most purposes.

You can always type in the **precise distance you intended** for your dimension line after placing it next to the object it is “measuring.” So, if you are ever in a situation where distances aren’t “quite right”, then the independent dimension line is the “way to go”.

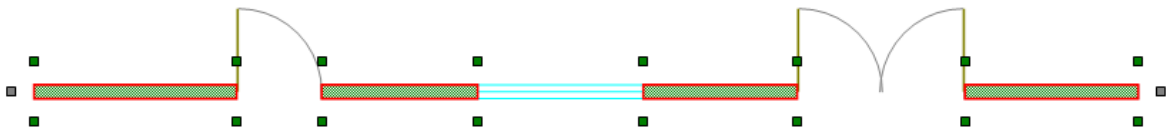
In fact, you might want to actually **draw an independent dimension line in you drawing first**, before you start placing objects. This helps you get the relative positions of things in your drawing right from the very beginning.

Another reason for using an independent dimension line is if you are only going to be using the **free version** of Easy Blue Print. Some advanced tools for exactly positioning doors or windows in walls are only available in the “customer” version of Easy Blue Print. If you want to **fudge** the same effect in the free version of Easy Blue Print (such as positioning a wall or window at a precise distance in a wall), then you can do this by using an independent dimension line.

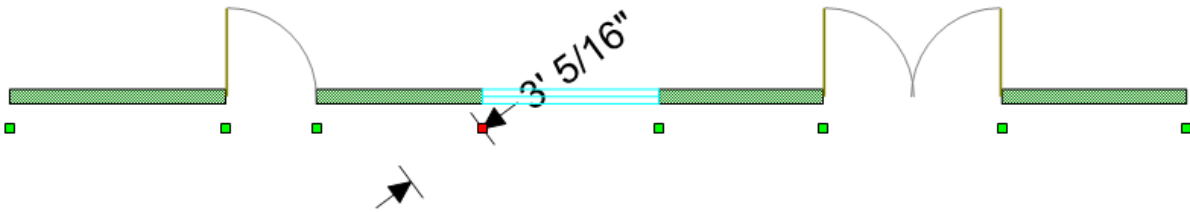
Wall Dimension Line

The “wall dimension” tool is useful when you want to measure common distances of objects related to walls: window positions, door positions, interior wall lengths, exterior wall lengths, or even distances between objects within a wall. In the free version of Easy Blue Print, the wall dimension line is usually used only to measure the inside or outside lengths of walls.

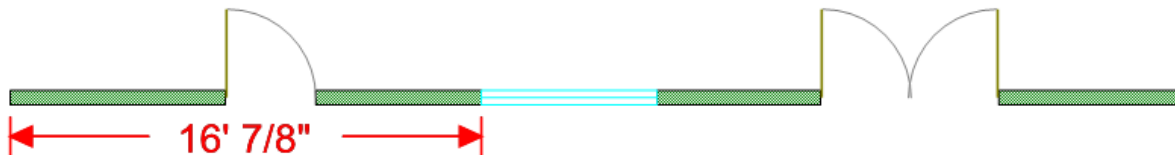
To create a wall dimension line, first **select the wall with the pointer tool** (in order to make “control points” appear). Once you select a wall with the pointer tool, you will see control points on the wall to create dimension lines suddenly appear. If a wall contains windows and doors, you will even see control points indicating various positions of the windows or doors.



Go ahead and use your mouse to “pick” one of the control points. As soon as you pick one of the control points, a wall dimension line will suddenly appear. Notice that as you **move** your mouse, the end of the wall dimension line will “jump” to the nearest next control point. This makes it easy to create a wall dimension line between any two control points along your wall.

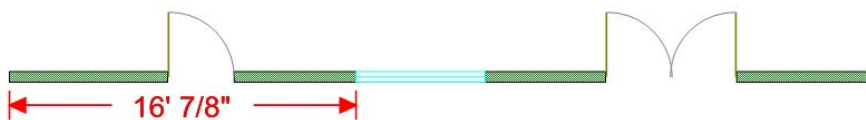
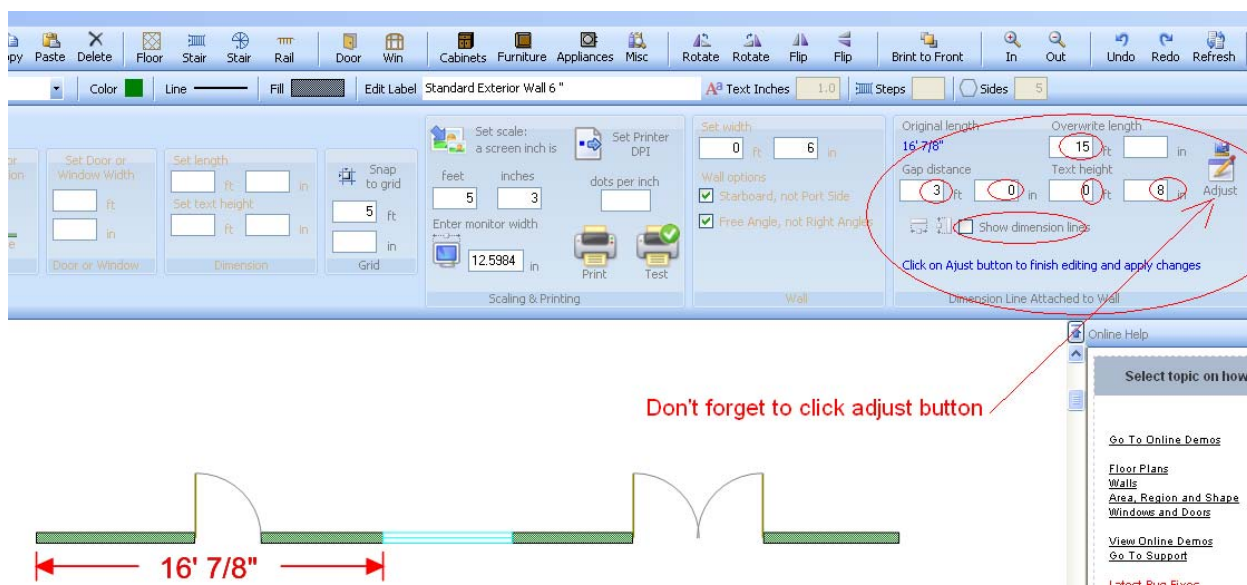


When you are satisfied that you have correctly chosen the two points that you want to make up your distance measure, simply left click your mouse once more and a dimension line will be set (between the two points you selected):



Notice that the dimension line is highlighted in red. This means that the dimension line is in **edit** mode. So, you can go to the edit panel, and type in edit options for the dimension line. You will notice that when you type in new edit options for a wall dimension line, **nothing seems to happen. This is a good thing.** The options that you can type into the dimension line edit boxes can have a dramatic effect on your drawing. Only by clicking on the “Adjust/Apply” button, will the changes you type in have any effect. Make sure the values you type in are what you want before you apply them to the dimension line.

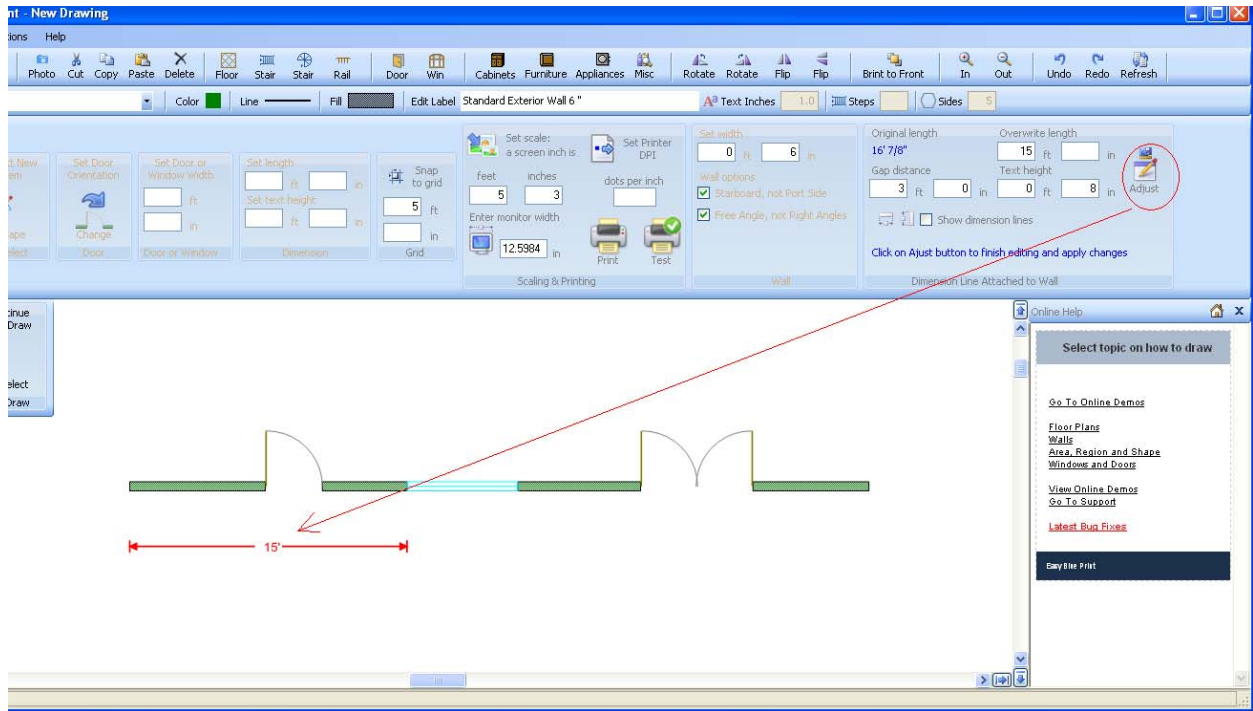
For example, let’s say we want to **force** the length of a wall dimension line (see below) to 15 ft (this will dramatically alter the wall, so make sure the distance you type is correct), the distance of the gap between the wall and the dimension line to be 3 ft, and the text height to be 8 inches.



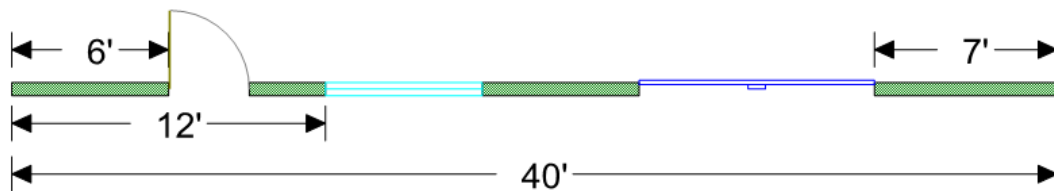
We also **unchecked** the box that controls whether or not we want to show the dimension line. By clearing the box, we make the dimension line **invisible**, except when the user has selected the wall (usually, you would not want to do this). The effect of all these changes will be to change the position of our window, change the distance of our dimension line relative to the wall, change the text size, and the visibility of the dimension line.

Notice that no changes take place at first...you must click the **Adjust** button in order for the changes to take place.

Finally, when you **click** on the **Adjust** button, the wall and the dimension line gets adjusted so that your dimension line “fits” the options that you have specified:



By typing in different options for your dimension lines, you can create a wall similar to the one below



Typing in a length for a dimension line will let you do the following things:

- Change the length of a wall.
- Change the position that an interior wall intersects a wall.
- Change the distance between two interior walls.
- Change the distance between a door/window and a wall.

The wall dimension line is the newest feature of Easy Blue Print. So, it does have some drawbacks: it doesn't work all the time. It also makes a lot of assumptions about how to reposition objects in a wall, when you try to change the length of the dimension line. Don't be surprised if you have to write to tech support if you start using the wall dimension line. It is powerful, but it is still very new.