

Raising Day

After months of planning and years of dreaming, the raising of a timber frame home is an experience not to be missed. Here, a crew from OakBridge Timber Framing in Ohio raises the frame for a dream home in the mountains of Montana. The design calls for a home with panoramic views attached to a garage with an apartment on its second floor.



The timber frame nears completion. Tradition dictates that the homeowners—and crew members—sign and date a peg or two before they're driven in. When the frame is fully finished, a small evergreen tree is nailed to the frame's peak to celebrate and honor the trees that live on in the timbers. Although a frame standing alone is a thing of beauty that begs to be admired, it must be enclosed in order to create a livable home.

1. Once the foundation and first-floor deck are prepared, the oak timbers are sorted and laid out around the perimeter, each ready to be put in its place in the frame.

2. A crane helps lift the timbers. As the frame is raised, rope rigging and pieces of dimensional lumber are used to steady the frame until it is completely raised and the joinery all locked together with pegs.

3. OakBridge's Amish crew rests on the timbers they crafted.

4. Some parts of the frame are assembled into trusses and lifted into place by the crane.

5. As the frame nears completion, stacks of structural insulated panels (SIPs) wait near the garage. The panels will enclose the frame, forming a weathertight shell while leaving the beauty of the frame exposed on the inside.

6. With almost 4,000 square feet of living space, the completed, enclosed home offers its owners a warm retreat.

