

Square FRP Columns with Craftsman PVC Cap and Base Installation Instructions

Please read through these entire instructions carefully and be sure you understand them fully before beginning to install the columns.

1. Measure the exact floor to ceiling height using a plumb to insure accuracy.
2. Cut the column shaft as needed to achieve the measurement taken in step #1. Use an abrasive blade. CAUTION: Load must be fully and evenly distributed across the entire top and bottom shaft surfaces to achieve maximum load bearing capabilities. Use a rasp to level as required. It is not permissible at any time to fill the interior of the column shaft with sand, concrete or any other material.
3. Cut install blocks to fit horizontally *inside* the top and bottom of the shaft. Blocks should be pressure-treated lumber, marine grade plywood, PVC, or composite decking material.
4. Raise the beam/soffit with a post jack. (If your building will not allow you to raise the load, you may need to install the bottom of the shaft in the same method as the top – steps 6 and 10, skipping step 5.)
5. Place the bottom installation block on foundation block, deck or porch, running front to back. Use a plumb to insure the installation block on the deck is in the correct location. Screw the installation block into place. See figure 1.
6. Insert the top installation block into the top of the column. Line up the block with the top of the column. Pin-nail the block into place inside the shaft. See figure 2.
7. **If this column is installed where it could collect water or debris, the top of the column and cap MUST be flashed (covered) to prevent such collection.** Use lead, copper, aluminum, galvanized, etc. flashing cut about 1/2" larger than the assembled cap, and fold the edges down over the cap after step 12.
8. Tip/insert column shaft into position (see figure 3) and lower load onto shaft to hold it in position, with the top block running the direction of the beam (left to right.)
9. Pre-drill through bottom of shaft into the block and counter-sink. Attach with non-corrosive deck screws. See figure 4.

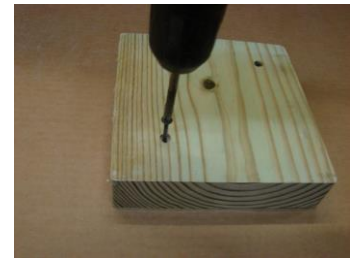


Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3



Figure 4



Figure 5

10. Pre-drill through the top of the shaft and block *at an angle (toe-nail) into the overhead beam* and counter-sink. Attach with non-corrosive deck screws. See figure 5. Be sure the screws finish flush with surface of shaft to prevent issues with cap installation later.

11. Apply adhesive to mitered edges of base moulding (standard base is 9-1/4" tall) and assemble around bottom of column shaft. Fasten joints on base with pin-nails. See figure 6.

12. Apply adhesive to mitered edges of cap moulding (7-1/4" tall) and to top of shaft (be careful not to apply adhesive below where the cap will cover). Assemble around shaft and tape in place. Pin-nail joints of cap (same as base, figure 6.) Allow adhesive to cure fully before removing tape. See figure 8.

13. Caulk edges of base, cap, and nail holes. See figure 9.

14. Remove all dust and dirt by thoroughly wiping column with SimpleGreen® or isopropyl alcohol, and allow to dry completely before painting. Paint with 2 coats of high quality acrylic latex paint.

Columns are not to be used in a free-standing application, an internal structural support will be required on free-standing applications.



Figure 6



Figure 7



Figure 8



Figure 9