

**General Considerations:**

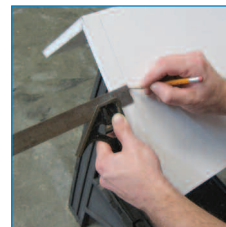
**The PVC column has no tested structural properties.** As with any building project – check with local building codes and follow their recommendations and guidelines. The PVC column is designed to install around a previously installed structural post. The structural post inside the column, supplied by others, provides the load-bearing component of the column. The load-bearing capacity of the column is determined by the physical properties of the structural post. The architect or engineer will specify load-

bearing requirements of the structural post. Structural post must be of ACQ, CCA or other treated lumber, or steel. Do not use untreated lumber for structural posts. Possible infiltration of water and possible condensation inside the PVC column shaft can cause degradation of untreated lumber. The bottom of structural post should be mounted to wooden deck or concrete/masonry porch floor or pillar using code-approved method and code-approved post anchor. The top of structural post should be mounted to beam using code-approved method and code-approved, post-to-beam mounting bracket.

1. Measure and cut the column to the field measured height (a) minus the thickness of the base plinth (b). For example: if the field measured height is 59 inches, and the base plinth is 5/8" thick, cut the column shaft to 58-3/8". This can be done using a skill saw or jig saw (c). **Always cut off the bottom. Never cut off the top!**
2. Prepare the two column halves and the two halves of the base plinth for fitting (d). Stand one of the two halves of the column shaft on one base plinth half (e). Mark the plinth where it needs to be trimmed to length on a miter saw (f). Trim the plinth with the miter saw (g). Repeat this process for the second column half and second base plinth half. Screw through the bottom of the face of each column half into the vertical flange on the inside of the base plinth (h).
3. Attach the top squaring block to the header (i). This may be done using staples, nails, screws or adhesive.
4. Next, install one "L" shaped column half around the structural post and attach to the top internal squaring block (j).
5. Apply adhesive caulk to the two mitered edges of the "L" shaped column shaft half (k). Slide the second "L" shaped column half in place and push the mitered edges together (l). Screw top of the second column shaft half into the edge of the top squaring block (m). Fasten the column down both edges of the mitered joints (n). We recommend fastening the column every 6 to 8 inches using 1-1/4" long galvanized or stainless steel staples. Finish nails also work. Wipe off any adhesive caulk squeeze-out with a damp cloth. **The adhesive caulk cleans up with water. It is important to wipe off the excess adhesive caulk before it dries.**



a.



b.



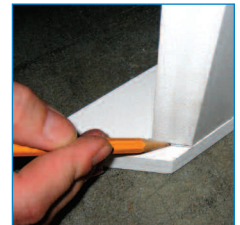
c.



d.



e.



f.



g.



h.



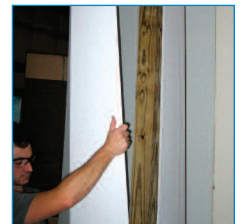
i.



j.



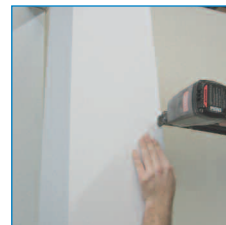
k.



l.



m.



n.

6. Center the column shaft into position (o) and screw through the top face of the base plinth into the floor, pier or pedestal (p). If screwing into masonry, you will need to use masonry screws.

7. Fit the pre-mitered cap and base moldings to the column shaft (q). Trim them to length if necessary with a power miter box. Fasten them in place with the same pneumatic fasteners used to attach the two halves of the column shaft together (r, s). Caulk the gap between the cap and base and the shaft with the same adhesive caulk provided. Wipe off any excess adhesive caulk with a damp rag.



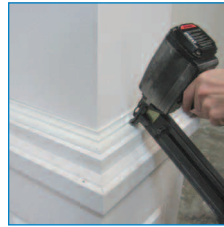
o.



p.



q.



r.



s.

## Installation Tips

### Temperature-Related Issues

PVC columns become more brittle in colder temperatures. When the columns become more brittle, they are more susceptible to damage. It is recommended that the columns themselves be warmed to 50° to 55° before installing. This can be accomplished by moving the columns into a heated space and allowing adequate time for the temperature of the columns to warm up. The outdoor ambient temperature can be considerably colder than 50°, but if the columns themselves can be warmed up, they can then be installed with reduced risk of damaging them in the process. If you are unable to warm the columns before installation, you should first drill pilot holes before screwing or nailing them together. Be careful when nailing the columns and try to avoid striking the column faces with a hammer.

### Cutting and Fastening

Cellular PVC can easily be cut with conventional carpentry and woodworking tools. Pneumatic finish nailers and staplers can be used to fasten cellular PVC parts together. Large pneumatic framing staplers and nailers are not suitable for fastening this material as the percussion of the drivers can fracture the PVC material. Coarse thread, galvanized or stainless steel drywall screws are also suitable for fastening cellular PVC parts together. It is suggested that pilot holes be used for screws longer than 1-5/8".



### Painting and Finishing

Caulk where required using Siroflex brand sealant and adhesive provided in the kit. Putty any holes using acrylic putty or caulk. Lightly sand or scuff surface of column. Clean surface of column to remove any dirt or hand oil residue with light detergent and water, denatured alcohol, or window cleaner. Be sure to remove soap residue with clean water. Apply one coat of 100% acrylic exterior primer and one or more finish coats of 100% acrylic exterior paint.