

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 the structural post should be mounted to the 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 the beam using code-approved method and code-approved, post-to-beam mounting bracket.

1. After determining the floor to beam height, subtract 1/4" for expansion and contraction. Cut the two column halves to the desired length (a, b, c). This can be done using a skill saw or jig saw.
2. Attach the four squaring blocks (provided in kit) to the floor (d) and to the header (e). This may be done using staples, nails, screws or adhesive. The squaring blocks wrap around the structural post and act as an indexing block for the column, so be sure that they are square and plumb at the top and bottom. These squaring blocks are designed to fit around a 4" x 4" pressure-treated support post and can be field trimmed for use with a larger post.
- 2a. When the column plans call for hand railing being attached, build up the inside of the column shaft with cellular PVC pieces to create blocking necessary to support the hand rail and foot rail.
3. Install one "L" shaped half around the structural post (f) and attach to the top and bottom internal squaring blocks (g).
4. Apply adhesive caulk to the two mitered edges of the "L" shaped column shaft (h).
5. Slide the second "L" shaped column half in place (i) and push the mitered edges together. Screw the top and the bottom of the column shaft into the top and bottom squaring blocks. Fasten the column along both edges as well as attaching it to the squaring blocks. We recommend fastening the column every 6 to 8 inches using 1-1/4" staples (j). 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.**
6. Attach the base and cap collars to the column shaft (k). Apply adhesive to the mitered edges and wrap the collars around the shaft at the top and bottom. Fasten the collars to the shaft and fasten both halves together at the corners (l, m). Wipe off any adhesive squeeze-out with damp cloth. **The adhesive cleans up with water. It is important to wipe off the excess adhesive caulk before it dries.** Use the adhesive caulk to fill the small gap between the back of the collars and the column shaft.



a.



b.



c.



d.



e.



f.



g.



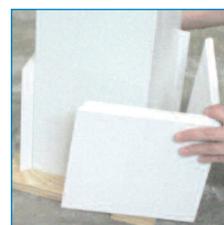
h.



i.



j.



k.



l.



m.

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 also are 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.

