

Square Columns



Installation Instructions

- *It is the responsibility of the installer to meet all code and safety requirements and to obtain all required building permits. The installer should determine and implement the installation techniques appropriate for each unique installation situation. Digger Specialties, Inc. and its distributors shall not be held liable for improper or unsafe installations.*
- *These instructions must be followed exactly as written and the materials used must be exactly as shown in the instructions. Any deviation from the instructions or variation in the materials used/installed may result in an unsuccessful installation and will void the warranty.*

Tools Required

- Safety Glasses
- Dust Mask
- Gloves
- Saw with Abrasive Blade
- Drill and Screws
- Tape Measure
- Latex Caulk (Paintable)
- Coarse Rasp
- Plumb Bob
- 4x4 Timber
- Shims
- Caulk Gun
- 100 Grit Sandpaper or Sanding Sponge
- Polyurethane Structural Adhesive
- Sledgehammer
- Square Bracket Kit or Angle Brackets
- Squaring Device
- Pilot Drill Bit (5/32")
- Split-Fit® Reassembly Kit (for Knockout Bases)
- High Quality Auto Body Filler (Bondo®) (for Knockout Bases and Column Repairs)

CAUTIONS

- *DO NOT CAULK BASE TO SUBSTRATE. THIS MAY CAUSE MOISTURE TO BE COLLECTED AND FREEZE.*
- *ALL HOLES MUST BE PRE-DRILLED.*
- *DO NOT PUT CONCRETE OR ANY OTHER FILLER INSIDE THE COLUMN.*
- *INSTALL FLASHING TO PREVENT WATER FROM ENTERING AT THE TOP OF THE COLUMN. THIS ONLY APPLIES IF THE TOP OF THE CAPITAL PROJECTS OUT FROM THE SOFFIT AND IS EXPOSED TO THE WEATHER.*
- *SAFETY GLASSES AND DUST MASK SHOULD BE WORN WHEN CUTTING AND SANDING COLUMN.*
- *WEAR APPROPRIATE GLOVES DURING INSTALLATION TO PROTECT HANDS FROM SHARP EDGES.*

Instructions

1. Using a tape measure, measure the opening in four places where corners of the column will rest. Transfer measurements to the column. **ALWAYS MAKE CUTS AT THE BOTTOM OF THE COLUMN.** If the top of the column is not completely covered by the header, then a top plate must be installed between the top of the column and bottom of the header to ensure even load distribution on all 4 sides of the column. This can be accomplished by using 3/4" plywood or a steel plate.
NOTE: 100% of bottom must contact substrate and 100% of top must contact soffit.
2. Use standard skill saw with an abrasive saw blade to cut to length. Fine tune your cut with a coarse rasp and remove sharp edges that could chip when being slid into place.
NOTE: If using railing in conjunction with columns it is best to fasten a backer to the inside of the column wall using Polyurethane Structural Adhesive. Pre-drill holes in column wall larger than the screws used to fasten railing to backer board. Use a long enough screw to go through the column and penetrate into the backer board. Do not over tighten. Bases will need to be notched out so bottom rail can sit low enough to achieve a proper ground clearance.
3. Place a 4x4 temporary timber in the opening 1/4" longer than the original opening.

Instructions Continued

- Astragal Installation: Using a squaring device, draw a line around the column where the astragal is to be installed. Position the astragal on the line and shim in place. Apply a dab of high quality auto body filler (Bondo®) in the corners where the astragal meets the column. Once high quality auto body filler (Bondo®) cures, carefully remove shims. Caulk remaining gap above and below the astragal with Latex Caulk.
4. Slide the capital down onto the top of the column. Slide the base up on the shaft of the column.
NOTE: Be careful not to wedge the base at an angle on the shaft.
 5. Slide a small shim between the bottom of the base & the shaft (thick end of the shim down) to ensure it does not fall while moving the column around.
 6. You may want to lower the base temporarily to check alignment with the front porch.
 7. Once the column is in place, make sure it is plumb. Use a sledgehammer to remove temporary timber and allow weight to settle on the column.

See Page 2 for Additional Instructions



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Instructions Continued

8. When using our Square Bracket Kit or Angle Brackets, follow instructions below:
 - a. Place each bracket on opposing corners at bottom of column.
 - b. Use Polyurethane Structural Adhesive (not included) to adhere the bracket to the column.
 - c. Drill 5/32" pilot holes through the bracket into the substrate
 - d. Fasten with supplied screws.

NOTE: Brackets are not a wind uplift device

9. Apply adhesive to the top of the polyurethane Snug-Fit Capital and slide into final position. For cast composite capitals, pre-drill holes for screws and counter sink if necessary to conceal the screw head. Use Latex Caulk around the bottom of the capital & top of the base where it meets the shaft.

NOTE: If using bases with knockouts for railing the Split-Fit® Reassembly Kit can be used to fasten the filler pieces in place. Put adhesive on bottom and sides of the cut out areas in base that will have filler pieces. Set the filler pieces in place and align so they match with base. Once adhesive is dry fill in any gaps with body filler. Sand and prep for painting.

Column Repair

Repair of Non-Structural Columns: Small cracks, chips, and scratches can be repaired with high quality auto body filler (Bondo®). Apply filler to the column per manufacturer's instructions. Let dry for appropriate time and then sand surface smooth with 100 grit sandpaper.

Repair of Structural Columns: If column is cracked at all it will need to be replaced. Small chips and scratches can be repaired with high quality auto body filler (Bondo®). Apply filler to the column per manufacturer's instructions. Let dry for appropriate time and then sand surface smooth with 100 grit sandpaper.

Painting Instructions

1. Do not paint using colors with a LRV of 56 or less.
2. Sand column with 100 grit sandpaper or a sanding sponge to prepare surface.
3. Make sure all surfaces are clean prior to painting. Wash each column with soapy water and soft scrub brush. Power washing may be used as long as pressure does not exceed 700 PSI on any polyurethane components. After washing the column rinse thoroughly to remove all soap residue. Column must be allowed to dry properly before painting begins. Times may vary due to atmospheric conditions.
4. Use a high quality exterior grade primer (latex or oil based) as a base coat.
5. Use a high quality exterior grade paint (latex or oil based) as finish coat on columns.

