

Craftsman 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
- 4x4 Timber
- Caulk Gun
- 100 Grit Sandpaper or Sanding Sponge
- Polyurethane Structural Adhesive
- Sledgehammer
- Adhesive Caulk
- High Quality Auto Body Filler (Bondo®) (for Column Repairs)

CAUTIONS

- **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.**

Column Installation

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 the bottom must contact substrate and 100% of the 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.
3. Insert a 4x4 temporary timber support 1/4" longer than the original opening to provide working room and keep the load off the column.
4. **Important Note:** When cutting the column to length, be sure that the cut is perpendicular to the center line on the face of each side ensuring the column stands straight

5. Once the column is in place, check to ensure the load will be evenly distributed. Use a sledgehammer to remove the temporary 4x4 Timber.
6. Apply Polyurethane Structural Adhesive around the top and bottom surfaces of the column.
7. Once the column is in place, use a sledgehammer to remove temporary timber and allow weight to settle on the column.

Craftsman Moulding Installation

1. Measure the moulding for each side of the top and bottom. Miter cut at 45° angle.
2. Toenail corners of moulding working around the column. Do not nail into the column.
3. Apply Adhesive Caulk to join the corners of the mitered moulding used to make the column capital and base.
4. Use Latex Caulk to seal the bottom of the capital and top of the base to the column.

See Page 2 for Additional Instructions



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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.

