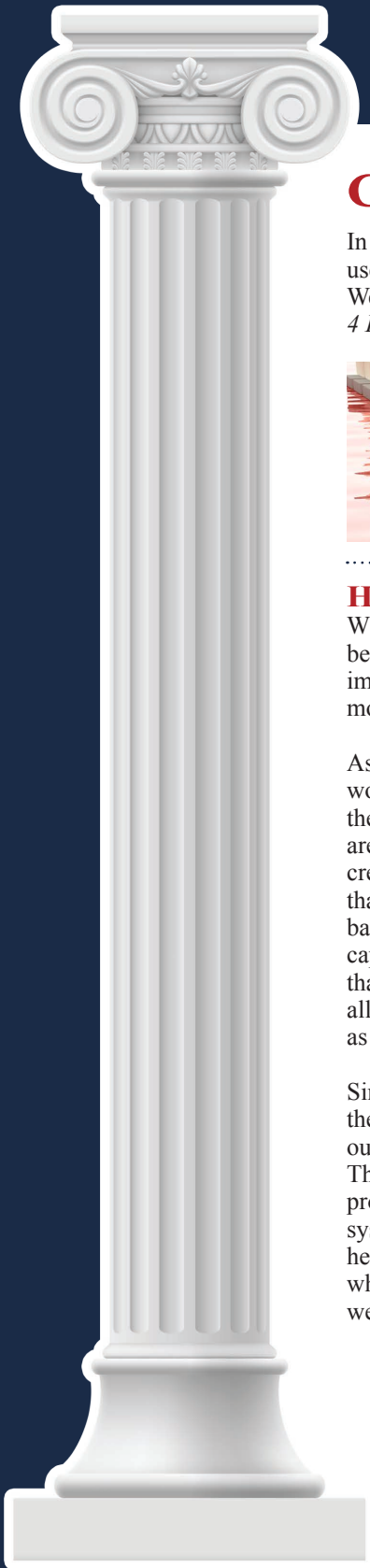


The Monthly COLUMN™



Cover Your Bases

In this edition of The Monthly Column™ we will take an in-depth look at the types of materials used to construct capitals and column bases, and why it's important to know their differences. We'll summarize and illustrate distinctions between the two and end the newsletter by answering *4 Important Questions To Ask a Fiberglass Column Supplier* before purchasing.



History

While wood architectural columns have been used since ancient times, their impermanence has led to the development of modern fiberglass columns.

As a superior alternative to the traditional wood column, fiberglass columns have been the preferred choice for over 20 years. They are manufactured from a two-part mold that creates an architecturally correct column that will never rot or deteriorate and they are backed by a limited lifetime warranty. The capital and bases act as decorative pieces that wrap around the column shaft which allows it to engage from the soffit to the floor as a single structural unit.

Since the inception of the fiberglass column, the capital and bases were typically made out of the two-part foam – polyurethane. Though widely used on many architectural products such as pediments, balustrade systems, moldings, louvers, and window heads, Polyurethane is a vulnerable material when exposed to “the human element” in the wear and tear of high traffic areas.

Polyurethane's density is similar to a pine wood and when installed on a porch with foot traffic can require long term maintenance and even the possibility of a full replacement.



Worthington has listened to our clients about the lack of durability of the polyurethane capital and base. We have recently addressed this concern by introducing the new solid cast capital and base as a standard benefit to the WorthingtonCast™ fiberglass column.

The development of these capitals and bases ensures our clients that they are receiving a REAL architectural product, with high durability, and extreme quality, detail, and a great warranty. This fiberglass cast capital, shaft, and base combination makes it truly an “all fiberglass column” and not a “mix and match” configuration using a polyurethane capital/base and fiberglass shaft.

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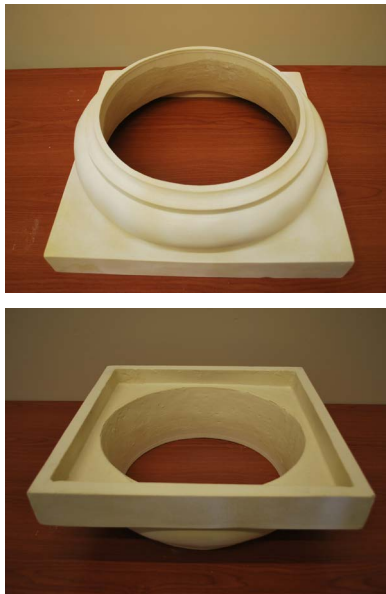
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12" Tuscan Base | Side-by-side Comparison

Polyurethane Foam



Cast Fiberglass

Standard with all WorthingtonCast™ fiberglass columns



3 lbs	Weight	18 lbs
No	Class A Fire Rating	Yes
No	Painted	No
Yes	Rot Proof	Yes
1 Year	Warranty	Lifetime
No	Dent Proof	Yes
Yes	Crack Resistant	Yes

Summary

Polyurethane is the original material used in making the capitals and bases with the launching of the fiberglass column in the early 1990's, and is still used today by some manufactures. Until recently, there has been little innovation to the product itself to make it more durable. Polyurethane, by design, is a foam with a density similar to a pine wood. This foam can be made very dense but not without a cost. It can also be made with a Class A fire rated urethane to ensure that it will pass building requirements and subdue additional safety concerns in the event of a fire, but again at a much higher price. Thus, the need for a much more durable capital and base were demanded, and then came the introduction of a fiberglass capital and base system. Worthington has made available the fiberglass capital and base as a standard part of all WorthingtonCast fiberglass columns to ensure that our clients receive a truly "all fiberglass" product. This makes our column the most durable and highest quality fiberglass column on the market today.



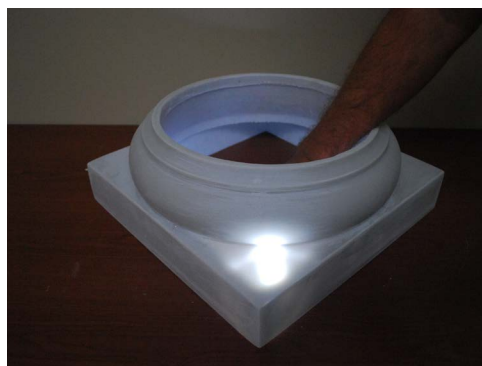
“Architecture should speak of its time and place, but yearn for timelessness.” -Frank Gehry

4 Important Questions To Ask a Fiberglass Column supplier that MUST be answered with a definitive “YES!”

- Q.** Are your fiberglass columns, capitals, and bases made of a fiberglass cast product?
- A.** Yes. This is the only way you are ensured to receive a true 100% fiberglass column.
- Q.** Are your capitals and bases Made in America?
- A.** Yes. You are receiving a REAL authentic architectural product that is made with the best materials on the market and monitored by an in-house quality control department. No cutting corners or knockoffs!
- Q.** Do you offer a lifetime warranty on all components of your fiberglass column?
- A.** Yes. This is the only way to ensure that the columns you are receiving are going to endure the test of time and “the human element.”
- Q.** Do all of the components of your fiberglass column have a Class A Fire Rating?
- A.** Yes. This is very important to ensure that the columns you are ordering are safe in the event of a fire. The class A fire rating and smoke density are low, which not only reduces the amount of smoke that is created when the product burns, but it also slows the burn time of the material that the columns are manufactured from.

The Flashlight Test

See the difference in “The Flashlight Test” - When shining a small flash light on the inside of a base you should not be able to see light pass though the wall of the fiberglass. The difference between a Non-Class A Fire Rated product and a Class A Fire Rated product is that light can pass through the walls of the Non-Class A fiberglass and will not pass through the Class A version. In this case “seeing the light” is not good!



Non-Class A Fire Rate Column Base (Fiberglass)

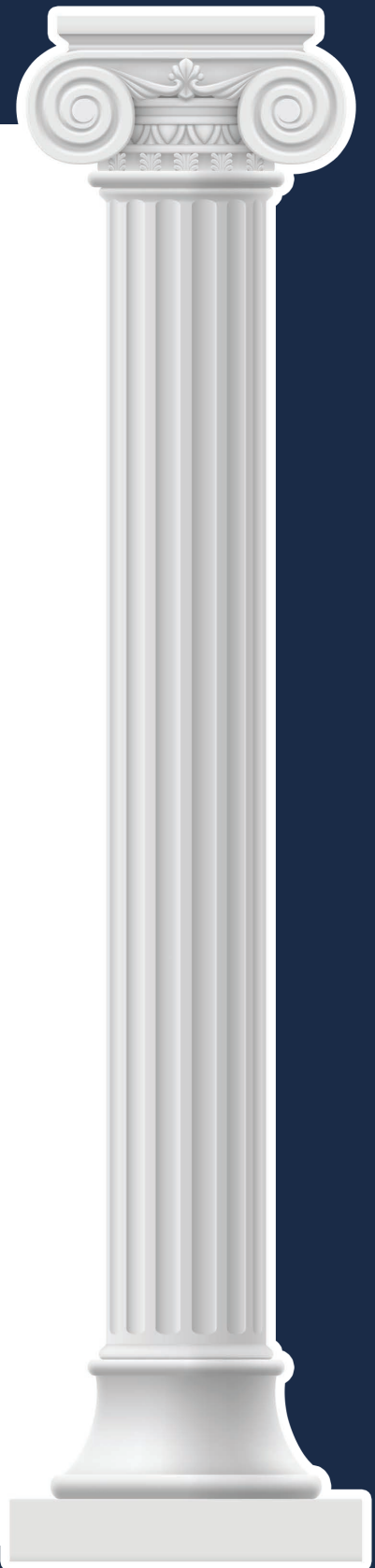


Class A Fire Rated Column Base (Fiberglass)



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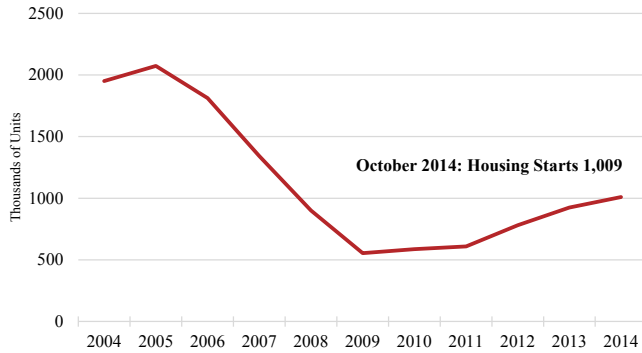
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NAHB/Wells Fargo Housing Market Index (HMI)
Source: NAHB/Wells Fargo Housing Market Index, U.S. Census Bureau



U.S. Housing Starts
Source: Economics Department, NAHB



Unemployment Rate
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

