FIBERGLASS COLUMN INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

1. Determine the position of the planks by dropping a plumb line from the center of the soffit beam to the floor. Mark this point on the floor with a "X". This mark is where you will center the planks so that the top of the shaft will align with the soffit. (Figure 1)

2. Measure the wall height. Raise the soffit or perch slightly with braces to ease installation of the columns. (Figure 2)

3. Tilt column shaft on the bottom end only. Trim with an abrasive saw. (Be sure to use personal protective wear.) Finish both the top and bottom of shaft with a rasp or sanding block to ensure an even load distribution around the entire circumference. (Figure 3)

4. Slide cap over top of column shaft. Let cap slide down to rest on the neck mold temporarily until shaft is correctly positioned. When installing a square column, slide neck mold over top of shaft to desired location. Flatten neck mold to shaft. Caution between neck mold and shaft may cause flat or uneven surface. (Figure 4)

5. Slide base/plinth onto column shaft from bottom. (Figure 5)

6. Place column in a vertical position with a brace centered over column shaft with exact distribution around bearing surfaces. (Figure 6)

7. If installation requires that column be secured in place prior to bearing load, use small L brackets. Be careful to ensure L-brackets do not interfere with seating of cap and base/plinth. Note: For secure brace to column shaft, fill hole to shaft width. (Figure 7)

8. POLYURETHANE Cap and Base/Plinth Slide cap up to within 1/2" of shaft to attach to soffit using excessurtenant screws. Attach to floor using appropriate fasteners. (Figure 8) SYNTHETIC INJECTION MOLDED NIM Cap and Base/Plinth Attach using corrosion-resistant screws in the holes pre-molded in the cap and base/plinth. Fill holes with exterior caulk or filler. (Figure 9)

9. Caulk between cap and soffit, the cap and shaft, and the base and the shaft for a finished appearance. (Figure 10)

A. SPECIAL NOTES AND EXCEPTIONS

1. If bedding code requires uplift protection, contact your supplier for recommendations.

2. To preserve and protect the columns it is necessary to paint with one coat of high quality exterior primer followed by two coats of exterior paint.

3. 2nd floor balconies should NOT be attached directly to the side of any fiberglass column.

B. FINISHING AND PAINTING INSTRUCTIONS

1. Make sure all surfaces are clean prior to painting. Use mineral spirits or oil or alcohol products are permitted. Watt soap water should be used if latex products are utilized. Synthetic cap and base/plinth. A non-slip base cover should be used to clean the cap/base/plinth. NOTE: Columns should never be painted with water prior to installation.

2. It is necessary to sand the column and caps prior to priming and painting. Some surface finishing may be required. Note: The surface on polystyrene caps and base/plinths must be thoroughly sanded with 120 grit sandpaper and wiped clean prior to priming and painting.

3. Use exterior primer and paint are recommended. Latex paints can be used, but additional sanding is required. Synthetic cap and base/plinth. Use a good high-quality exterior paint. At least one coat of primer and two coats of final paint should be used. Suggested primer for Synthetic Injection Molded (NIM) cap and base/plinth: XIM Primer 400 White, or any primer made for use on fiberglass or plastics.

C. ALTERING COLUMNS

1) Cutting to Overall Length

Columns can be field trimmed to a specified length. When trimming a round fiberglass column shaft length, make sure to always trim from the bottom end only. A circular saw with an abrasive blade can be used to trim this cut. (Make sure to always wear personal protective equipment.) It is important to trim exactly more than the bottom 1/3 of any round fiberglass column shaft. The round fiberglass column has a true architectural taper. (The bottom 1/3 is non-tapered, the top 2/3 is tapered.) If more than the bottom 1/3 is trimmed, the base will not fit properly. Square fiberglass columns can be trimmed to any length because they are not tapered.

2) Altering Flutes

Flutes can be altered only on the adjustable fluted columns if ordered as a special order from the factory. Flutes normally should not be altered if the column will be trimmed in order to avoid cutting into the flutes. Or, it may be desirable to stop the flutes closer to the top of the base. Standard stock adjustable fluted columns have a 10 3/4" space from the bottom of the flutes to the top of the Tuscan base/plinth.

3) Cutting Column at Head

All fiberglass columns used with decorative capitals should be trimmed flush above the head/trim. The capital should rest on top of the head/trim and will allow for a proper fit. Column capitals can be ordered from the factory cut at the base, or this can be trimmed in the field. A circular saw with an abrasive blade can be used to trim a column at the head/trim. (Make sure to always wear personal protective equipment.) There are several considerations to be made when ordering fiberglass columns used with decorative capitals. The cut at head loss and the decorative capital height must always be taken into consideration. In addition, a fiberglass column used with a short decorative capital may require that a longer shaft be ordered.

D. JOINING SPLIT COLUMNS

The Split Kit includes everything needed to install a split column. Columns that are split to surround structural supports should be installed similarly to unsplitted columns. However, the following procedures should be followed when putting the split halves back together:

1. Split columns are shipped from the factory with matching halves wrapped together. Keep the column halves together as packaged and mark the column halves by sections so that they cannot be mismatched. It is important to reassemble split halves as soon as possible after shipping. We do not recommend storing for an extended amount of time. Make sure column halves match before applying bonding adhesive. Level and check your measurements, and then install split halves around the structural support.

2. Realign the shaft using a high-quality exterior, waterproof construction adhesive suitable for fiberglass columns. Surfaces must be clean and dry prior to applying adhesive. Follow adhesive manufacturer’s instructions concerning use within temperature ranges and working time for best results.

3. Align halves around the post or structural support and join together. Clamp and tighten uniformly until adhesive sets. (Alternatively, a nylon reinforced tape wrapped tightly around the column can be used.) The compression should be applied approximately every 12" along the length of the shaft.

4. Place aluminum plates across split at top and bottom of shaft. Mark and crimp holes using a 7/8" bit. Screw down one side of aluminum plate and then the other side of the plate. The aluminum plates will bend around the shaft. This step should be done for all plates.

5. After adhesive dries, remove the clamps, straps or tape. Rough down with 80 grit and finish sand with 120 grit or finer sandpaper.

6. Realign and attach the caps and base/plinth with the same adhesive.

7. Suggested Adhesive: CX-948, OST Quickbond Multi-Purpose Adhesive, Methacrylate-Dowcon Contractor’s Choice Multi-Purpose Adhesive, 3M 5600 Adhesive, PL-400, Titebond, Mascherol, or Aberam APP.

E. HOW TO SPLIT FIBERGLASS/WOOD COLUMNS

1. Secure column to soffit or table using screws. Screws should be wrapped with cloth to avoid embedding. (Figure 11)

2. Place the screws snugly against the column ensuring that the column will remain in place while being cut.

3. After column is secured, a chisel line should be applied to the column. To lay the chalk line, place a string over the base end diameter of the column to the center of the string ensuring that the string is centered. Mark the column on the top where the string is centered. Run the chalk line from the mark on the top end of the column to the mark on the base end and map the chalk line.

4. To make the bottom line, use a circumference measuring tape and measure the circumference distance from the top mark and place a mark on the bottom of the column.

5. Once both chalk lines have been applied to the column, set the saw blade at the appropriate depth ensuring that it will pass cleanly through the head/trim.

6. Use a circular saw with an abrasive blade. (Make sure to always wear personal protective equipment.) Begin cutting from the base end moving to the head/trim end. Remove column and repeat sawing on the bottom.

F. HOW TO ATTACH A SPLIT FIBERGLASS/WOOD COLUMN TO A WALL AS A PLAISTER

When installing Decorative Capitals, see “Decorative Capital” section for a detailed drawing of the capital structure.

1. Select desired location and trace short lines at the top, midpoint, and bottom on both sides of the capital structure.

2. Grate the thickness of the column wall and trace lines to show where the inside wall will be at the top, midpoint, and bottom. Note: Wall thickness on fiberglass columns at the top is wider than the floor just above the base.
FIBERGLASS COLUMN INSTALLATION INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

1. Attach six wood blocks (two screws per block) to the building wall just inside the traced lines you marked in step two. The block dimensions should be approximately 3/4” x 1 1/2” x 3”.
2. Make sure that the top and bottom blocks are placed within the heights of the cap and base so that finishing will not be required with the counter sunk holes.
3. Drill six holes in the column wall at the points where the screws will line up with the blocks installed in step three. Holes should be counter sunk so that the head of the screw will be slightly below the surface of the column wall.
4. Place the split column in position and fasten it to the wood blocks. Screws should be snug. Do not overtighten because the column wall can be damaged.
5. Attach split cap and base/plinths using dry wall screws. Make sure to pre-drill holes. Fasten cap and base/plinths to wall, ceiling or floor.
6. Caulk joints and trim where the column edge meets the wall.

SQUARE RECESSED PANEL FIGURES:

A. PAINTING AND FINISHING INSTRUCTIONS

1. Make sure all surfaces are clean prior to painting. Use mineral spirits if oil or alkyd products are used. Water based water should be used if latex products are utilized. It may be necessary to sand Decorative Capitals prior to printing and painting. Some coarse filling may be required.
2. Alkyd or oil based primer and paint are recommended. Latex products may be used, but additional sanding may be required.
3. Use a good high-quality exterior paint. At least one coat of primer and two coats of final paint are recommended.
4. Follow paint manufacturer’s instructions concerning use within temperature ranges for best results.
5. Do not use paint or solvents containing acetone.

B. WEIGHT NOTES

Due to the weight of Decorative Capitals, equipment may be required to lift the Decorative Capitals in position. The job site contractor and engineer should be consulted in each application.

C. FIBERGLASS COLUMN INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS WITH DECORATIVE CAPITALS

1. Determine the position of the base/plinth by dropping a plumb line from the center of the socket beam to the floor. Mark this point on the floor with an “X.” This mark is where you will center the base/plinth so that the top of the shaft and capital will align with the socket.
2. Measure the overall height. Raise the socket slightly with a brace for easy installation of the column.
3. Trim column shaft on the bottom end only. Trim with an abrasive saw. (Be sure to use personal protective equipment). Finish the bottom of the shaft with a rasp or sandpaper to ensure an even lead distribution along the entire circumference.
4. All fiberglass columns used with Decorative Capitals should be trimmed flush above the bead/step edge. The capital should rest on top of the bead/step edge and will allow for a proper fit. Column can be ordered from the factory cut at the bead, or this can be trimmed in the field. A circular saw with an abrasive blade can be used to trim a column at the bead/step edge. (Make sure to use personal protective equipment). There are several considerations to be made when ordering Fiberglass Columns used with Decorative Capitals: (a) The cut at bead loss and the decorative capital height must always be taken into consideration. Its addition, any column used with a short decorative capital must require that a larger shaft be ordered.
5. Slide base/plinth onto column shaft from bottom.
6. Place column in a vertical position.

G. 2ND STORY BALCONY SUGGESTIONS

It is not recommended that the floor joint for a second-story porch or balcony be connected to a wood or fiberglass column. The recommended technique involves the use of a structural column or support column (sometimes referred to as a "sally") column.

A joint hanger is attached to the sally column at the appropriate height above ground. The floor joint is supported by the sally column. The column itself shall be split and the contractor can notch the column on the site at the appropriate height to allow the floor joint to pass through the column. The weight supported by the floor joint, however, does not rest on the bottom of the notch. Instead, the weight rests on the sally column. The split column is reassembled around the sally column.

Note: This is a suggested installation technique. Please contact a structural engineer to certify your particular application.

H. SQUARE RECESSED PANEL INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

ATTACHING PANEL INSERT KITS and/or PANEL DIVIDER KITS:

1. Before installation, apply the panel insert pieces to the top and bottom of each side of the column. Each column will include (6) top panel insert pieces and (4) bottom panel insert pieces.
2. The pieces can be attached to the shaft using a construction adhesive. Follow the instructions on the package.
3. If using panel divider pieces to achieve a two-panel or three-panel column, they are attached in the same manner as the panel insert pieces. First measure and determine the placement of each of the panel divider pieces and attach to each side of the column shaft using a construction adhesive. Follow the instructions on the package.
4. Fill the seams where the panel insert pieces and/or panel divider pieces meet the shaft with a fiberglass heat repair lot or “Bondo.” Follow the instructions on the package.
5. Proceed to Column Installation Steps 1 through 10.