Square RoughSawn® Fiberglass Column Installation Instructions

1. Trim the top of the column to be square. Smooth the top with a rasp or sanding block.

2. Mark the location of the center of the column on the center of the underside of the beam and drop a plumb bob to the floor. Mark this point on the floor with an "X". This mark is where you will center the column shaft so that the top of the shaft will align with the center of the beam.

3. Measure opening for column (from underside of beam to floor) in four places: front, back, left and right of where the column is to be installed. Transfer these measurements to column shaft and connect the measurement marks with lines to follow when cutting. After taking the measurement, raise the beam 1" with a brace for easy installation of the column.

4. Lay column shaft on saw horses, and trim it to length following the measurement marks you made in step #3. Cut with a circular saw with an abrasive masonry blade or fine tooth carbide blade. Finish both the top and bottom of the shaft with a rasp or sanding block to ensure an even load distribution around the bearing surfaces.

5. Before mounting the locator blocks, check to ensure they fit easily inside the column shaft (top and bottom). Trim locator blocks as necessary with a jig saw.

6. Take one of the 3/8" thick internal locator blocks and hold the block up against the bottom of the beam with the center hole of the locator block over the column center mark you made in step-1. Screw though the center hole in the locator block to hold the block in place. Rotate the locator block around the screw until the front and back edges of the locator block are parallel to the beam. Secure the locator block in place with 4 additional screws. Note – in this step, you may, but do not need to use the pre-drilled screw holes. You may screw directly though the locator block into the bottom of the beam without pre-drilling holes if it gives you better attachment options.

7. Take the second 3/8" thick internal locator block and place the block on the floor surface with the center hole of the locator block centered on the "X" mark you made in step #1 with the plumb bob. Rotate the locator block around the plumb bob mark until the front and back edges of the locator block are parallel to the beam and/or edge of the porch. Use a pencil and mark the locations of the four pre-drilled holes in the locator block on the floor. Set the locator block aside and drill 4 holes where you just marked. If the floor is wood, use a 1/8" diameter twist drill bit, & secure the locator block in place with four 2" galvanized decking screws. If the floor is concrete or masonry, use the properly sized masonry drill bit for the concrete screws being used and secure the locator block in place with them.

8. Raise the column to a vertical position and move it next to the attached locator blocks. Lift the column slightly so it slides over the floor-mounted locator block, and slide it into position until it drops back to the floor with the locator block now entirely inside the column shaft. Position the top of the column so it is centered directly under the squaring block attached to the beam.

9. Remove brace to allow load to bear on column shaft. The beam-mounted locator block should be entirely inside the column shaft. You are now ready to install the capital and base trim.

10. The (4) capital and base trim pieces (if purchased) can be used for the capital or base. They are longer than required and must be trimmed to length before installation. They may either be mitered or "pinwheeled" when they are installed. The ends of the trim pieces have authentic wood grain detailing. If you choose to miter the capital and base trim pieces, you will cut away and discard this wood grain detail. But if you choose to "pinwheel" the trim pieces, you should cut only one end of each trim piece so you retain the wood grain detail on the other end. When using the pinwheel method of installation, conceal the cut end of each trim piece by butting it against the back face of the adjacent trim piece.

11. After cutting the capital and base trim pieces to length, use construction adhesive and non-corroding finish nails or trim-head screws to fasten 3 of the 4 pieces together. The 3 connected pieces will form the shape of a "U". Take one of these assemblies and slide it around the column shaft at the bottom. Use construction adhesive and finish nails or trim-head screws to fasten the 4th piece to the "U" shaped assembly to complete the assembly of the base.

Take the second 3 connected pieces in the shape of a "U" and slide the assembly over the column shaft at the top of the column. Hold this assembly in position and drill a 1/8" diameter hole through the center of each of the 3 trim pieces and through the column shaft behind the trim pieces. Use non-corrosive trimhead screws to secure the connected trim pieces to the column shaft. Use construction adhesive and non-corrosive finish nails or trim-head screws to fasten the 4th piece to the "U" shaped assembly to complete the assembly of the capital. Drill a 1/8" diameter hole through the center of the 4th piece, and through the column shaft and use a non-corrosive trim head screw to secure it to the column shaft.

12. Caulk the gaps between the column shaft and the capital and base with a clear paintable adhesive caulk and fill any nail and screw holes for a finished appearance.

A. SPECIAL NOTES AND EXCEPTIONS:

1. Be certain the load is evenly distributed over the bearing surface of the shaft. (Split columns are nonload bearing). The load shall be concentrically loaded and be distributed over 100% of the bottom and 75% of the top of the column.
2. 2nd floor balconies should NOT be attached directly to the side of any Square Fiberglass Column.
3. Water should not be allowed to collect inside Fiberglass Columns. Flashing may be required to channel water away from the inside of the column. A drainage hole can be drilled in the bottom of the shaft and trim if necessary.
4. Columns should never be pressure washed or sprayed with water prior to installation.
5. Columns are not designed to be set into masonry. This will void the warranty.
6. Concrete should never be used to fill Fiberglass Columns. This will void the warranty.
7. Do not install columns below grade. This will void the warranty.
8. RoughSawn® must be either stained or painted or the warranty is void.

B. FINISH AND STAINING/PAINTING INSTRUCTIONS:

Use warm soapy water to make sure all surfaces are clean prior to painting and rinse with a hose. Clean with a sponge, rag or soft brush. Do not use a pressure washer. Allow column to completely dry prior to applying coatings, as moisture will impact coating adhesion.

a) If staining, brush apply a polystain or a wood stain that states it is appropriate for fiberglass.
   - For a polystain, brush apply a minimum of 2 coats. Add more coats to darken.
   - For a wood stain, brush apply a minimum of 2 coats. Add more coats to darken. Followed by brush applying a high quality exterior spar urethane.

b) If painting, apply a high quality exterior grade acrylic latex bonding primer and two coats of high quality exterior acrylic latex paint.

c) Follow stain/paint manufacturer's instructions. There are different grades of paint, stains and urethane available in the market. Be sure to check with paint professionals and use products that will provide a long lasting finish in exterior applications

d) Do not use stains, paints, or solvents containing acetone.

Notes:

- The urethane protection needs to be maintained as per the manufacturer's instructions.
- Failure to follow the finish, staining/painting instructions voids the warranty as it may lead to surface and coating adhesion issues.
- The finish coatings applied must be maintained through the life of the column. Not properly maintaining the finish coating will lead to the column being damaged.
- Please maintain a copy of these instructions in the Homeowner Information Package.