

Before You Begin

IMPORTANT

Always wear safety glasses when cutting and drilling railing or decking products.

HELPFUL HINTS

- Use carbide-tipped, multi-purpose blade for cutting.
- Do not lay components on abrasive surfaces.
- Do not use excessive force while assembling components.
- If any components are missing or defective, please call us at 800-233-8990.

TIPS

- Make sure you have all the pieces you need to complete the job.
- Separate your flat and stair pieces to avoid using the wrong ones.

IMPORTANT FIRE INFORMATION

Rigid vinyl decking and railing are made from organic materials that will not burn on their own but melt or burn when exposed to a significant source of flame or heat. Consequently, owners and installers should take a few simple steps to protect vinyl building materials from fire. Building owners, occupants and outside maintenance personnel should always take normal precautions to keep sources of fire, such as barbecues, and combustible materials like dry leaves, mulch and trash, away from vinyl decking and railing.

TOOLS REQUIRED FOR ALL INSTALLATIONS

- Chop/mitre saw (with carbide-tipped, multi-purpose blade or non-ferrous blade)
- Power drill and bits
- Tape measure
- Pencil
- Level
- Safety glasses and equipment (as identified by tool manufacturers)
- #2 square drive
- Phillips screwdriver or bit

ADDITIONAL TOOLS REQUIRED FOR SPECIFIC JOBS

- **Certa-Snap® Post Wrap**
 - Hammer
 - Siding snips
- **Gates**
 - 1/8" drill bit
 - 3/16" drill bit
 - 1/4" drill bit
 - 5/32" drill bit
 - 11/64" drill bit
 - 7/16" wrench
 - #3 square drive bit
- **Handrail Component System**
 - 3/8" masonry drill bit (for concrete installation)
 - 3/4" drill bit
 - Angle finder
 - Quick-clamps
 - Adhesive
 - Recommended adhesives:
 - Aluminum bonding-
 - Loctite® Metal/Concrete Epoxy™
 - Gorilla™ Epoxy-Impact Tough®
 - J-B Weld®-2-Part Epoxy
 - Loctite® Extra Time Epoxy
- **Mount Post Support Wood Surface**
 - 2" x 6" or 2" x 8" blocking
 - Wood screws to attach blocking to deck
 - 3/8" drill bit
 - 1/8" drill bit
 - 1/2" wrench or socket
- **Panorama®**
 - 1/4" drive socket, extension and 7/16" socket
 - Jigsaw/coping saw (optional)
 - Utility knife (optional)
 - File (optional)
 - Box-end wrenches (optional)
 - Chalk line (optional)
 - Silicone caulk and caulk gun (optional)
 - Angle finder (optional)
 - Extension bit for crush block (optional)
- **Porch Columns**
 - Saber saw with a fine-tooth blade
 - Hammer drill with 1/4" and 1/2" drill bits
 - T-square
- **UnderShield® Water Diversion**
 - Gloves
 - Step ladder
 - Snips
 - Utility knife
 - Chalk line
 - 12" speed square
 - Vinyl snap lock punch
 - Cordless drill/driver
 - 1-inch "J" channel
 - Flashing
 - Gutter and Downspout
 - Fascia boards
- **Vinyl Decking and Oxford T-Rail**
 - 2" hole saw
 - Circular saw
 - Drop cloth
 - Screwdrivers
 - Phillips and flat-bladed
 - Wood clamps
 - Wrenches (sockets)
 - 3/4" (post support)
 - 7/16" (EZ Set bracket)
 - 3/8" (rail plate)
 - Bevel guide (optional)
 - Chalk line (optional)
 - File (optional)
 - Jigsaw/hacksaw (optional)
 - Rotary hammer drill (optional)
 - Utility knife (optional)

TIP: Stainless steel fasteners are recommended to prevent future rust streaking.

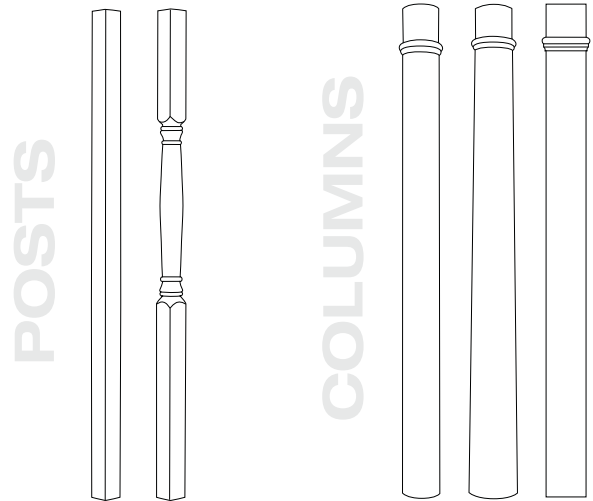
STEP-BY-STEP INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS FOR STRUCTURAL PORCH POSTS AND COLUMNS

IMPORTANT

Not ACQ compatible. Use plastic between base plate and wood surface.

TIP: Before installing you will need to modify the height of the base trim to allow proper clearance between bottom rail and finished deck.

TIP: It is the responsibility of the owner to meet or exceed all code and safety requirements, and to obtain all required building permits. These instructions are only a guide and may not address every circumstance. The deck and railing installer should determine and implement appropriate installation techniques for each situation.



INSTALLING PORCH POSTS

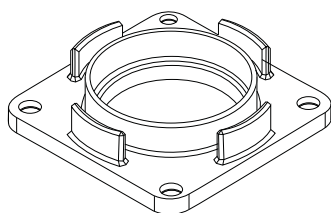
Step 1: Measure porch opening. Subtract 3/4" from measurement to account for tie-down plates.

Step 2: Measure and cut post to length.

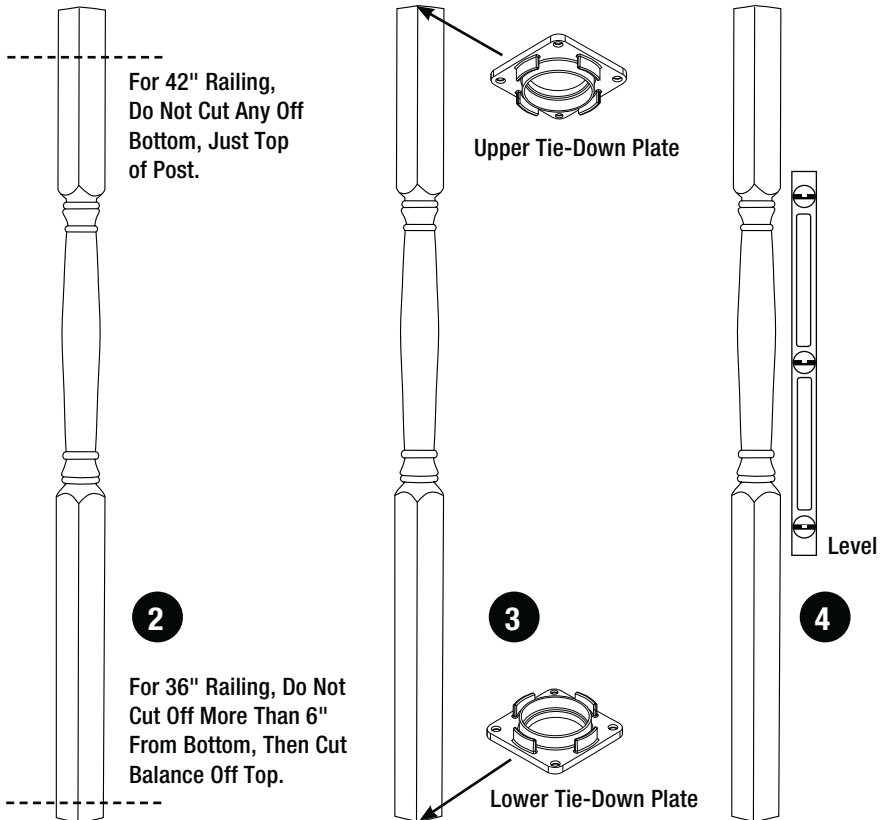
NOTE: For 42" railing, do not cut any off bottom, just top of post. For 36" railing, do not cut off more than six inches from bottom. Cut the balance off the top.

Step 3: Insert top and bottom tie-down plates into ends of post.

Step 4: Position post into place and plumb. Mark placement of tie-down plates.



Improved Tie-Down Plate



INSTALLING PORCH POSTS CONTINUED

Step 5: Turn post a quarter turn clockwise to expose tie-down attachment screw holes.

Step 6: Secure top and bottom tie-down plates to header and floor using screws provided.

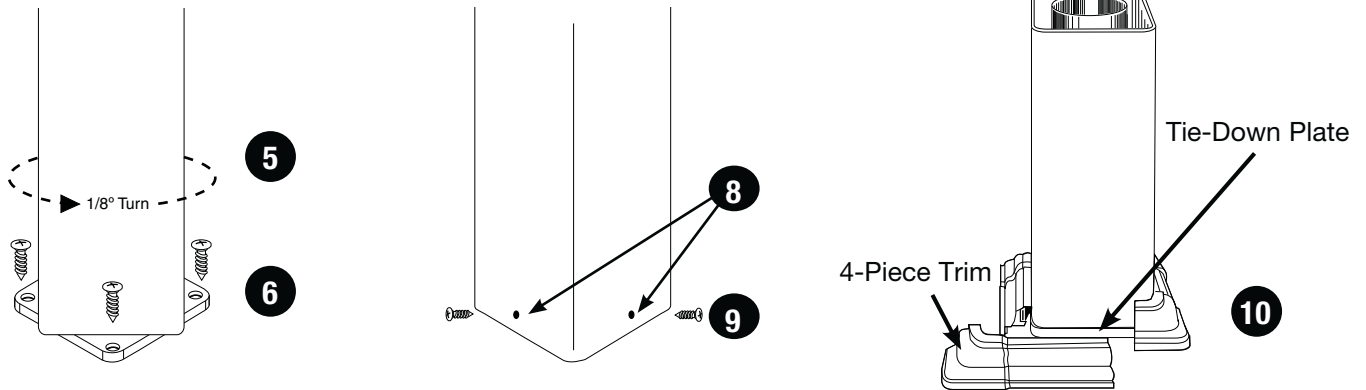
TIP: For concrete installation, Tapcon® anchors are recommended (not provided).

Step 7: Turn post back into position.

Step 8: At each end of the four sides of post, pre-drill attachment screw holes (11/64" bit) through post and reinforcement.

Step 9: Secure post to top and bottom tie-down plates with screws provided.

Step 10: Install trim pieces into place around top and bottom of the post to complete installation.



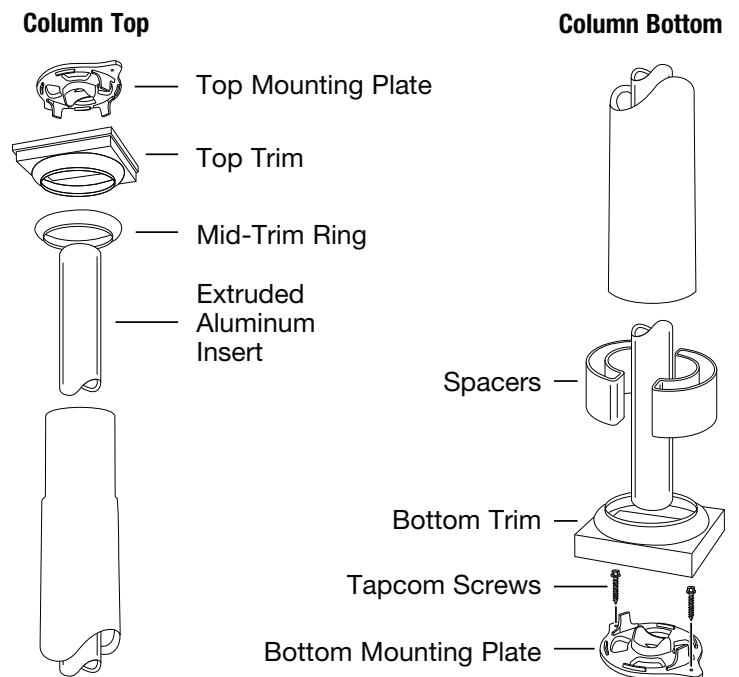
INSTALLING ROUND PORCH COLUMNS

NOTE: The porch column includes column, top mounting plate and bottom mounting plate.

Column base/cap trim kit includes top trim, mid trim, bottom trim and hardware.

For complete system, order both porch column and column base/cap trim kit.

NOTE: If a railing system is being installed with the lower rail at less than 4-1/4" off of the deck, the base trim ring will need to be cut to provide for the lower rail mounting bracket. Trim ring must be cut before column is installed. Refer to modifying base trim on page 62.



Step 1: Begin by laying out the placement of the columns. Typically, the center of the carrying beam is determined along with the location of each column on that line. Mark the location on the center of each column. Using a “plumb bob,” determine the center of the column at the floor level and mark that spot. With all column centers marked, snap a line the length of the project through the center marks.

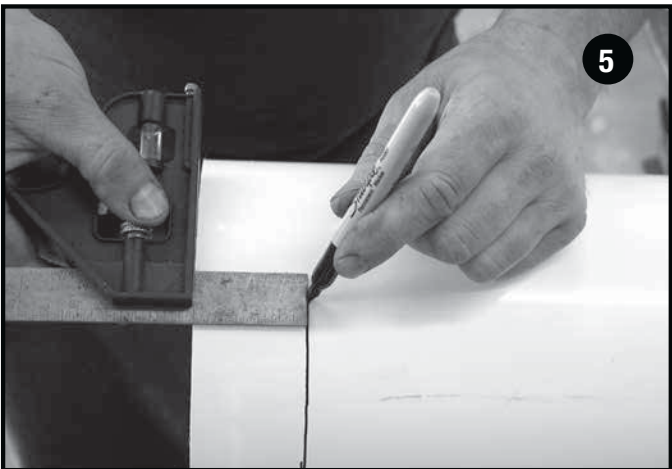
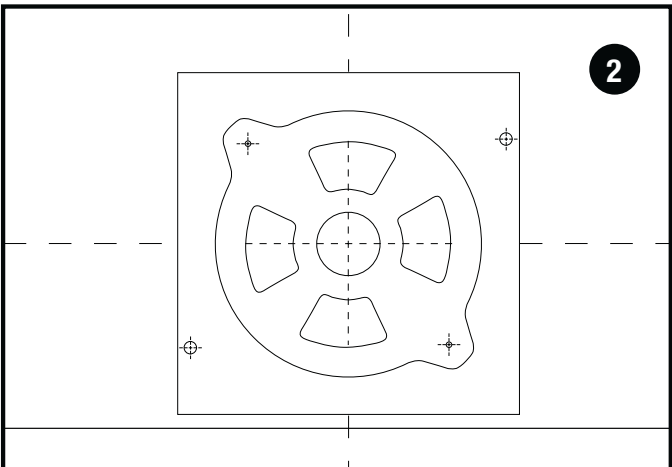
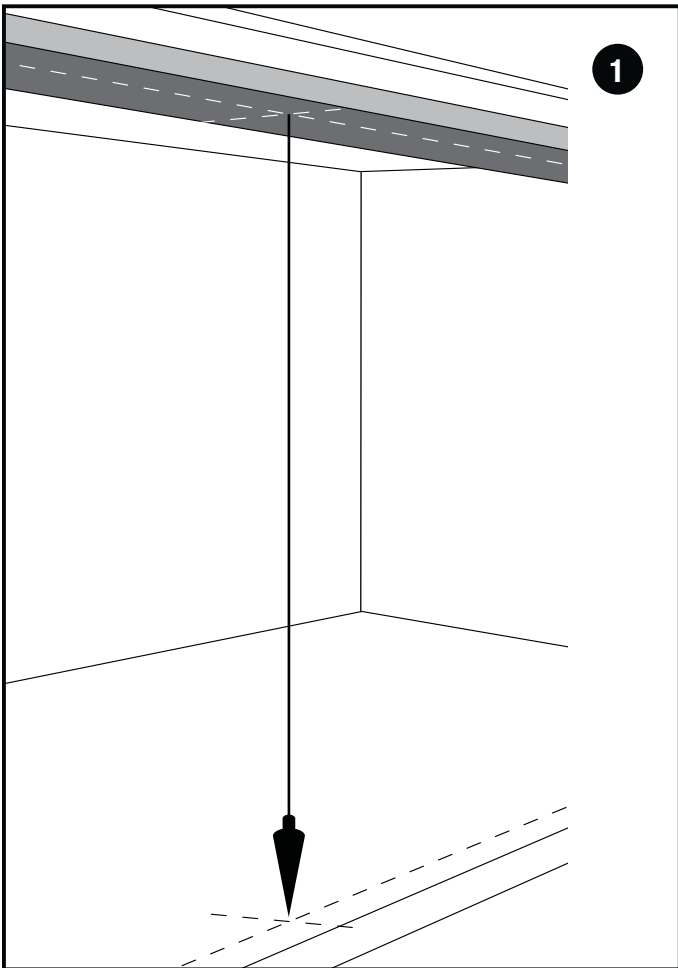
Step 2: Using the template that is provided with the column trim, mark the center as established from the previous step. Align the centering marks of the template with the project centerline from the previous step. Mark the position of the holes for the bottom bracket and the trim locator pins (bottom side of trim ring). Likewise, mark the position of the top bracket mounting holes (there are no locator pins on the top). Care in establishing the top and bottom bracket locations will enable the column to be installed plumb. This is especially important when installing tapered columns.

Step 3: Using a hammer drill, pre-drill 1/4" holes for the bottom bracket at an angle that will be convenient to drive the screws into the concrete when the column assembly is placed (see Step 11). Drill 1/2" holes for the trim locator pins. These are drilled straight into the concrete. Typically, it is not necessary to pre-drill the top bracket holes. However, to ensure the most correct placement of the bracket, you may wish to provide pilot holes.

Step 4: If adjusting the length of the column is required, slide the inner column and spacers out of the column from the base (straight) end. Measure and mark the amount to be removed and cut the inner column with a fine-tooth carbide blade on a chop saw.

Step 5: Using a “T” square, mark the outer column (bottom straight end only).

CUTTING TIP
Ensure cut is the same pitch as floor surface.
Use Mitre saw with a carbide tipped multi-purpose blade.



INSTALLING ROUND PORCH COLUMNS CONTINUED

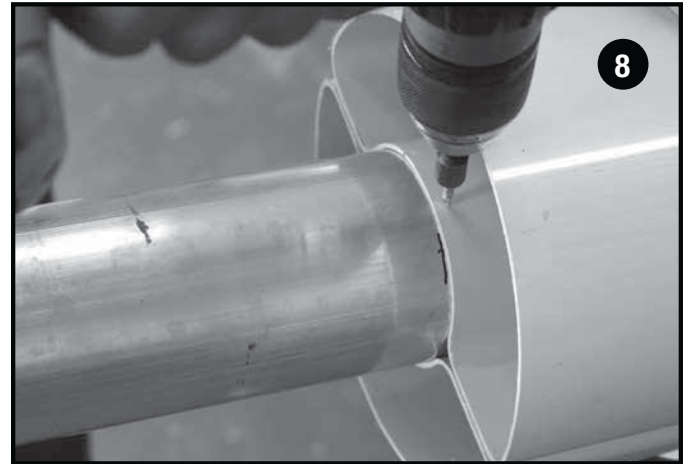
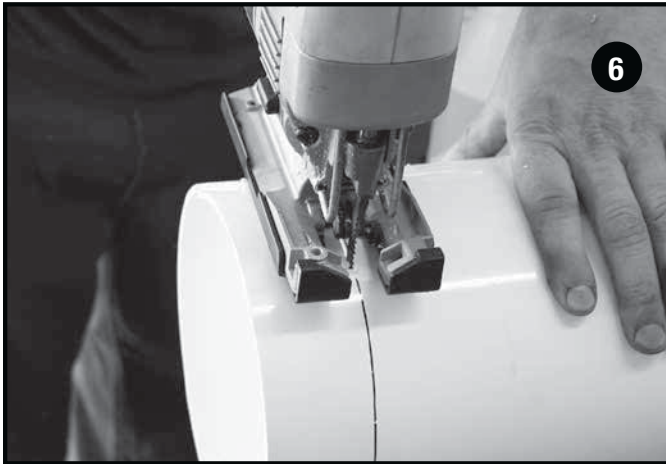
Step 6: Remove the unwanted amount using a saber saw with a fine-tooth blade.

Step 7: Pre-assemble each column to be installed by first determining the position of the inner column spacers (34" for 36" high railing, 36" for 42" high railing).

Step 8: Spacers need to be fixed in place using #8 x 2" self-drilling screws. Slide inner pipe with spacer into column. If a railing system is being installed with the lower rail at less than 4-1/4"

off of the deck, the base trim ring will need to be cut to provide for the lower rail mounting bracket. Refer to Modifying Base Trim on page 62.

Step 9: Slide the mid-trim ring onto the column, as shown. 8" and 10" tapered columns have an offset on which the ring rests. The location of the rings for straight columns should be pre-determined (typically, 8" from the top on the 8" post) and marked.



INSTALLING ROUND PORCH COLUMNS CONTINUED

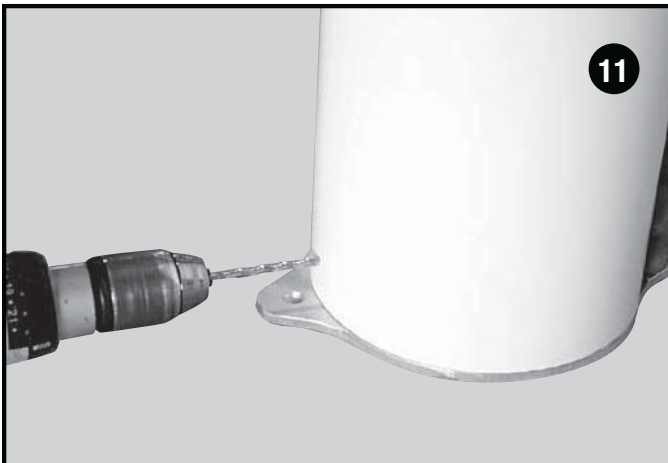
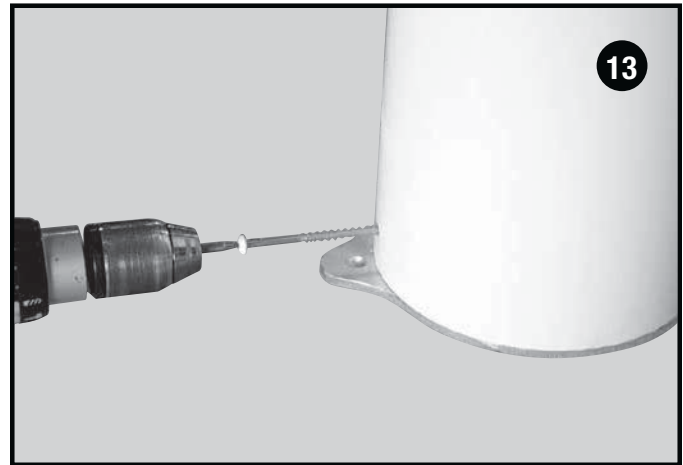
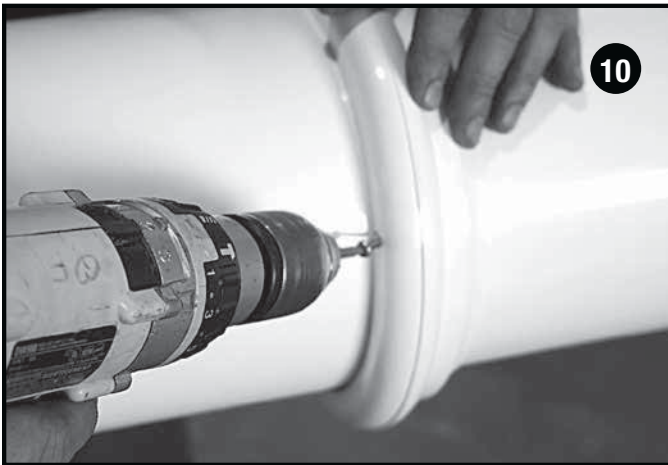
Step 10: With the rings properly positioned on the 8" straight column, drive #8 x 2" self-drilling screws into the column through the holes in the top of the ring, as shown. Slide the top and bottom trim over the column, followed by the top and bottom mounting brackets.

Step 11: Slide the assembly into position aligning the brackets with the holes drilled in Step 2. Using a hammer drill, drive the Tapcon® screws into the concrete deck. Likewise, affix the top bracket to the carrying timber.

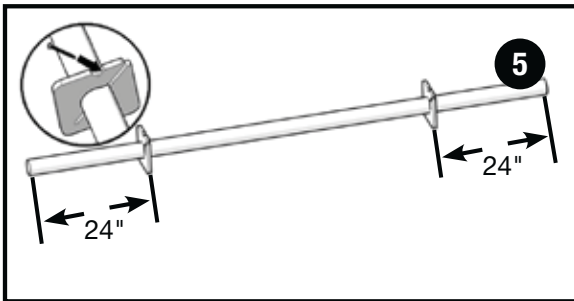
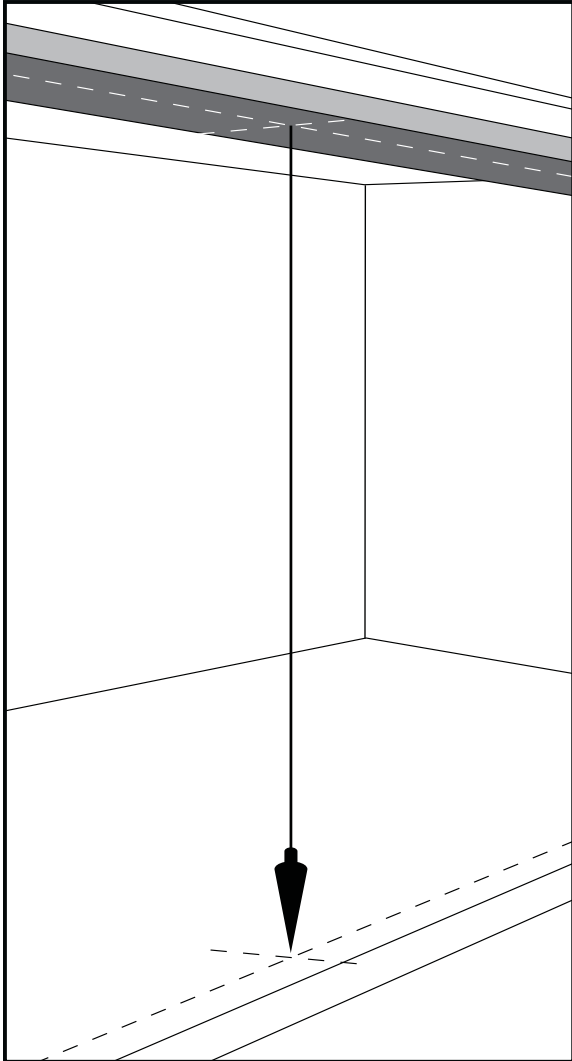
Step 12: In areas where uplift from high winds is considered a problem, pre-drill 15/64" holes through the column and bracket ears at the position of the bracket mounting tabs into the post approximately 1" from the bottom and 1" from the top.

Step 13: Drive #14 x 4" screws into the column, securing the column to the bracket top and bottom. Placement of the top and bottom trim will hide the screws (two screws per bracket).

Step 14: Top trim is now fixed to the carrying beam as shown using #8 x 2" self-drilling screws.



INSTALLING SQUARE PORCH COLUMNS



NOTE: If a railing system is being installed with the lower rail at less than 4-1/4" off of the deck, the base trim ring will need to be cut to provide for the lower rail mounting bracket. Trim ring must be cut before column is installed. Refer to **Modifying Base Trim** on the next page.

Step 1: Begin by laying out the placement of the columns. Typically, the center of the carrying beam is determined along with the location of each column on that line. Mark the location of the center of each column. Using a "plumb bob," determine the center of the column at the floor level and mark that spot. With all column centers marked, snap a line the length of the project through the center marks.

Step 2: Using a hammer drill, pre-drill 1/4" holes for the bottom bracket at an angle that will be convenient to drive the screws into the concrete when the column assembly is placed. Typically, it is not necessary to pre-drill the top bracket holes. However, to ensure the most correct placement of the bracket, you may wish to provide pilot holes.

Step 3: Using a "T" square, mark the outer column.

Step 4: Remove the unwanted amount using a saber saw with a fine-tooth blade.

Step 5: Fasten the spacers at the appropriate height (typical spacing 24" respectively).

Step 6: Slide the mid-trim ring onto the column.

Step 7: With the ring properly positioned on the column, drive #8 x 2" self-drilling screws into the column through the holes in the top of the ring. Slide the top and bottom trim over the column, followed by the top and bottom mounting brackets. If a railing system is being installed with the lower rail at less than 4-1/4" off of the deck, the base trim ring will need to be cut to provide for the lower rail mounting bracket. Refer to **Modifying Base Trim** on the next page.

Step 8: Slide the assembly into position aligning the brackets with the holes drilled in Step 2. Using a hammer drill, drive the Tapcon® screws into the concrete deck. Likewise, affix the top bracket to the carrying timber.

Step 9: In areas where uplift from high winds is considered a problem, pre-drill 1/4" holes through the column and bracket ears at the position of the bracket mounting tabs into the post, approximately 1" from the bottom and 1" from the top.

Step 10: Drive #14 x 4" screws into the column, securing the column to the bracket top and bottom. Placement of the top and bottom trim will hide the screws (two screws per bracket).

Step 11: Top trim is now fixed to the carrying beam using #8 x 2" self-drilling screws.

MODIFYING BASE TRIM FOR PORCH COLUMNS WHEN INSTALLING RAILING SYSTEM

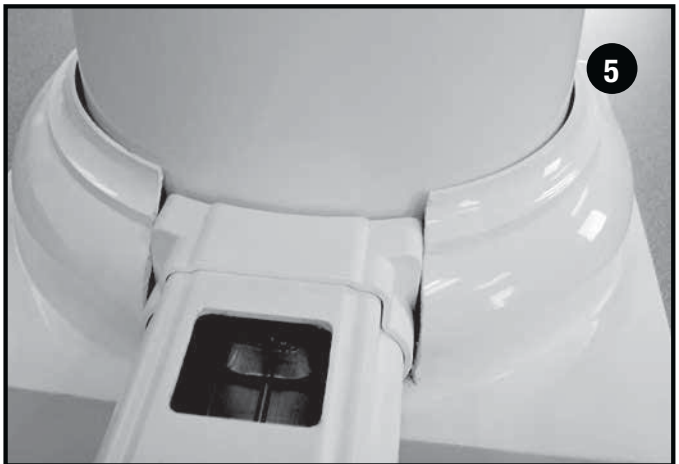
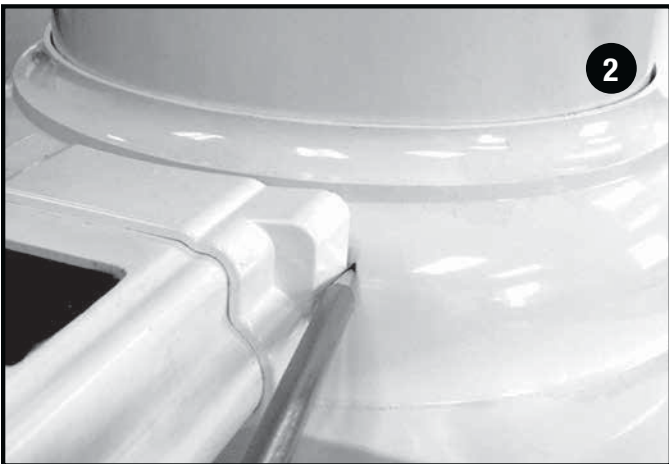
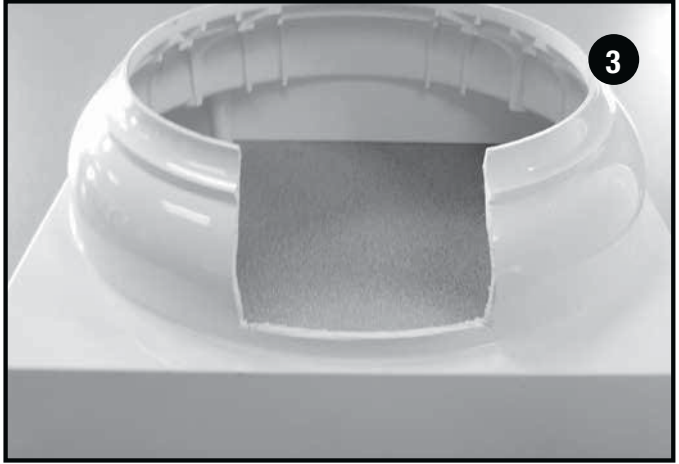
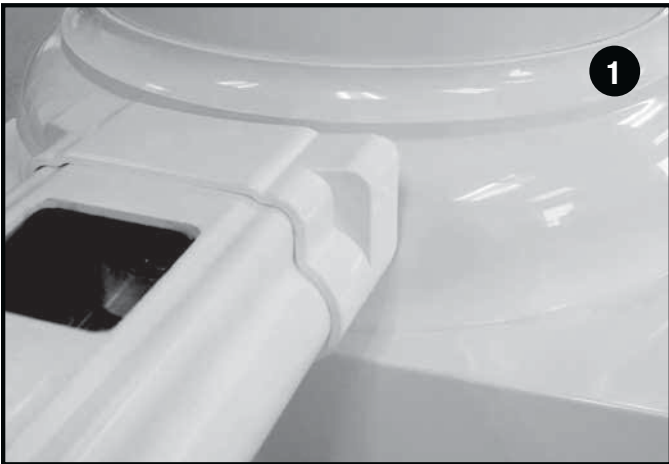
Step 1: Determine the height and placement of the bottom rail. You can use the bottom rail from the system you are installing to help. Be sure to check local codes for the maximum distance from the deck surface to the bottom of the railing.

Step 2: Mark the location where the rail will fall on the base trim. Include railing trim cover when marking for cutout.

Step 3: Cut out base trim where you marked.

Step 4: Continue with column installation.

Step 5: Follow the railing system instructions for the system you are using to complete the railing installation.



CARE AND MAINTENANCE

CARE AND MAINTENANCE

Vinyl and composite building materials require very little maintenance. Nevertheless, common sense dictates that builders and suppliers of these products store, handle, and install materials in a manner that avoids damage to the product or structure.

CertainTeed decking and railing is not difficult to work with, but there are a few precautions you should take before you begin to unload and install the product. Always place planks, posts, rails and accessories on a non-abrasive surface, such as a drop cloth or cardboard, to avoid scratches. Protect all components during transport. Finally, when assembling the deck and railing, avoid over-tightening the screws.

CLEANING VINYL DECKING AND RAILING

CertainTeed vinyl decking and railing resists most common household stains, including oil and grease. But, like any other product, it will get dirty when it is exposed to the atmosphere. Chalk may also accumulate on the surface. This is a normal condition for all pigmented materials that are constantly exposed to sunlight and the elements. Soil, grime and chalk can be removed with a garden hose and a bucket of soapy water.

Mildew

Mildew may be a problem in some areas, especially warmer climates with consistently high humidity. Mildew appears as black spots on surface dirt and is usually first detected in areas not subjected to rainfall, such as eaves and porch enclosures. You can remove mildew from vinyl decking and railing with the following solution.

Mix together:

- 1/3 cup detergent (Tide, for example)
- 2/3 cup trisodium phosphate (e.g., Soilex)
- 1 qt. 5% sodium hypochlorite (e.g., Clorox)
- 3 qt. water

CAUTION: Cleaning solution mixed at greater concentrations may harm the vinyl.

If the above solution does not readily remove the mildew spots, purchase mildew cleaner from your local hardware store. Before you use any commercial cleaner, test it on an inconspicuous area.

The chemical agents mentioned above may be hazardous to the user or to the environment. Be sure to follow all precautions and warnings on the product label, particularly those that may be necessary to prevent personal injury. Please DISCARD these chemical agents in the manner

prescribed by the manufacturer. If you are unsure how to use or dispose of these chemical agents, contact the manufacturer.

CLEANING PANORAMA® COMPOSITE RAILING

Panorama® Composite Railing resists most common household stains, but it will become dirty like any product exposed to atmospheric conditions. Periodic washing with a soft bristle brush and clean water from a garden hose may be necessary to remove surface dirt which may accumulate on the surface. For best appearance, clean your Panorama Composite Railing at least once a year, unless local conditions require additional cleaning.

CLEANING UNDERSHIELD® WATER DIVERSION SYSTEM

UnderShield® resists most common household stains, but it will become dirty like any product exposed to atmospheric conditions. Periodic washing with a soft bristle brush and clean water from a garden hose may be necessary to remove surface dirt. Chalk may also accumulate on the surface. This is a normal condition for pigmented materials exposed to the elements. For the best appearance, clean UnderShield at least once a year. To remove soil, grime and chalk from UnderShield, use a garden hose, a soft bristle brush, and a bucket of soapy water. (You can also use the solution described in the section dealing with mildew.) Thoroughly rinse UnderShield with clean water from a garden hose. Avoid prolonged or high pressure rinsing of open ventilated areas. Keep cleaning solution off surrounding fixtures and surfaces not scheduled for washing.

If debris such as leaves gets in the system, you will need to periodically flush out the system with a garden hose. This can be done from above or possibly from access to the sides by removing the fascia panel.

NOTE: We do not recommend power washing UnderShield as it can cause moisture intrusion, damage, and/or discoloration.

Stubborn Stains

If you can't remove especially stubborn stains using normal household detergents, request a cleaner from your contractor or your local building materials retailer. Always test any cleaner on an inconspicuous area before full use.

CAUTION: Greater concentration may cause damage to UnderShield.

If the above solution does not readily remove mildew spots, ask your contractor or your local building materials retailer for a mildew cleaner.