

# PermaLite® Installation Instructions

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1. Determine the position of the plinth by dropping a plumb line from the center of the soffit beam to the floor. Mark this point on the floor with an "X". This mark is where you will center the plinth so that the top of the shaft will align with the soffit.
2. Measure the overall height. Raise the soffit or porch slightly with brace for easy installation of the column.
3. Trim column shaft. Column shaft can be trimmed from the top or bottom since the shaft is non-tapered. Trim with a circular saw with an abrasive blade (masonry or carbide). Finish both the top and bottom of the shaft with a rasp or sander to ensure an even load distribution around the bearing surfaces.
4. Slide the neck mould over top of shaft to the desired location before sliding capital over. Fasten neck mould to shaft using construction adhesive and non-corrosive screws. Slide cap over top of column shaft. Let cap slide down to rest on the neck mould temporarily until shaft is correctly positioned. Caulk between neck mould and shaft.
5. Slide base onto column shaft from bottom.
6. Place column in a vertical position with load centered over column shaft with an even distribution around the bearing surfaces.
7. Use small L brackets to secure column in place prior to bearing load. Be careful to ensure that the L brackets do not interfere with the seating of the cap and base.  
Note: To secure L-brackets to column, make sure to pre-drill first. Do not over tighten screws.
8. Remove brace to allow load to bear on column shaft.
9. POLYURETHANE Cap and Base: Slide cap up to soffit and attach to soffit using non-corrosive screws. Attach base to floor and bottom of shaft using non-corrosive screws or appropriate fasteners.  
SYNTHETIC INJECTION MOLDED (SIM) Cap and Base: Attach using non-corrosive screws in the holes pre-molded in the cap and base. Fill holes with "Bondo" or filler.
10. Caulk between cap and soffit, the cap and shaft and the base and shaft for a finished appearance. Caulk between neck mould and shaft.

## A. SPECIAL NOTES AND EXCEPTIONS:

- Be certain the load is evenly distributed over the bearing surface of the shaft. The column should be loaded concentrically with 100% contact on the bottom with the substrate and 75% at the top with the soffit
- PermaLite® columns are not intended to be split.
- If building code requires uplift connection, contact your distributor or dealer for recommendations.
- Do not paint using dark colors (dark colors are considered any color that falls within the L values of 56 to 0). L is a measure of the lightness of an object, and ranges from 0 (black) to 100 (white).
- Spray painting is not recommended. Paint should always be applied with a brush.
- 2nd floor balconies should NOT be attached directly to the side of any Square Fiberglass Column.
- 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 plinth if necessary.

- Columns should never be pressure washed or sprayed with water prior to installation.
- Columns are not designed to be set into masonry.
- Concrete should never be used to fill Fiberglass Columns. This will void the warranty.
- Columns are not designed to be installed below grade.
- Split columns are not load bearing.

## B. FINISHING AND PAINTING INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Make sure all surfaces are clean prior to painting. Use mineral spirits if oil or alkyd products are used. Warm soapy water should be used if latex products are utilized. Synthetic cap and base: A non-oil based cleaner should be used to clean the cap/base.
2. Alkyd or oil base primer and paint are recommended. Latex products can be used, but additional sanding is required. Synthetic cap and base: Use a good high-quality exterior paint. At least one coat of bonding primer and two coats of final paint should be used. Suggested primer for Synthetic Injection Molded (SIM) cap and base: XIM Primer 400 White or any bonding primer made for use on fiberglass or plastics.
3. Use a good, high-quality exterior paint. At least one coat of bonding primer and two coats of a final paint should be used. Note: Spray painting is not recommended. Paint should be applied with a brush.
4. Follow paint manufacturer's instructions concerning use within temperature ranges for best results. Do not use paint or solvents containing acetone.

## C. PERMALITE® SQUARE RECESSED PANEL INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS:

### ATTACHING PANEL INSERT KITS and PANEL DIVIDER KITS:

1. Before installation, apply the panel insert pieces to the top and bottom of each side of the column shaft (Field trimming shaft to desired length prior to attaching insert pieces). Each column will include (4) top panel insert pieces and (4) bottom panel insert pieces. The pieces can be attached to the shaft using a construction adhesive and non-corrosive screws (screws must be countersunk and filled with "Bondo").
2. If using panel divider pieces to achieve a two-panel or three-panel design 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 and non-corrosive screws.
3. Fill the seams where the panel insert pieces and panel divider pieces meet the shaft and the countersunk screws with a fiberglass boat repair kit or "Bondo".
4. Follow Column Installation Instruction Steps 1-10.