WOOD COLUMN INSTALLATION TIPS

- Wood column shafts must not be exposed to moisture, weather, or extreme heat before proper surface treatment.
- For optimal finish, HB&G recommends a light sanding of the wood column and a second coat of primer over the entire column surface along with priming the top and bottom of the column after it has been trimmed.
- All wood columns must be painted with two coats of high quality exterior paint if used in an exterior application following the paint manufacturer’s recommendations.
- HB&G recommends light sanding between all coats of primer and paint.
- Do not caulk or fill vents on caps and bases. Vent spaces on caps and bases must be open to free flowing air. Proper ventilation for exterior applications is required.

1. Measure full opening. Check for level substrate. Columns must be installed on level surface or shimmed to level.
2. Simply place the capital on top of the base and measure from the highest point to the bottom of beam for shaft height.
3. Locate saw kerf at top of column and trim using a hand saw or circular saw. Saw kerf is approximately 3/4” from top end of column.
4. Sand or rasp smooth to guarantee even contact with capital.
5. Measure from newly trimmed top of shaft to desired length placing marks every inch.
6. Place a mark around shaft using a straight edge.
7. Trim column with a hand saw or circular saw. Slowly rotating column will insure a level cut.
8. FOR EXTERIOR APPLICATIONS – Paint inside of column shaft with a non-fibrous asphalt-type roof coating. Application must reach a minimum of four (4) feet up column shaft.
9. Paint the top and bottom ends of shaft with high quality exterior wood primer. For optional finish, see “TIPS” below.
10. Using a jack and post, lift beam and remove existing column or post. Beam should not be lifted more than 1/2”.
11. Determine top centerline and mark on beam using a straight edge.
12. Hang a plumb line from top center line to determine bottom center line.
13. Mark center point of column. Measure width of base and determine if adjustments should be made to top center line. Make any adjustments now.
14. Using a large square, draw a center line perpendicular to the outside edge of substrate.
15. Draw a center line parallel to outside edge.
16. Place marks at center line of all four sides of each capital and base.
17. When installing shaft, capital and base, all four sides will line up evenly insuring a perfectly aligned column.
18. Center cap and base on column shaft and apply using nails or screws. Place column shaft with applied cap and base into place and align base with marks.
19. Nail or screw through capital into beam in 4 corners of capital. Nail or screw through base into substrate in 4 corners of base.
20. Cauk seam at top of column shaft and at bottom. Use a high quality paintable exterior caulk for best results.