

RigidWrap™ Column Installation Instructions

Be sure to be wearing eye protection before beginning installation

1. Remove column from box, and remove tape holding the aluminum post to the inside of the column shaft. Slide aluminum post out from inside the column shaft and set aside.
2. Install a temporary brace to support the beam at the final desired height above the floor. Measure distance from floor to underside of support beam and make a note of it.
3. Use a power miter box with a fine-tooth carbide blade to cut the 3"x3" aluminum post 1/8" shorter than the floor-to-beam measurement you took in step #2. CUT SLOWLY AND SMOOTHLY. Temporarily, set the aluminum post aside.
4. Mark the desired location for the column on the bottom of the support beam
 - If possible, you should center the column directly under the beam.
 - This will be possible only if the beam is set back far enough from the edge of the porch to permit the column to rest entirely on the porch floor while being centered under the beam.
 - If the outside face of the porch beam is aligned directly over the edge of the porch floor, the column shaft will need to be offset under the porch beam, back from the edge of the porch several inches so the column shaft does not partially fall off the porch.
 - Use one of the U-shaped PVC locating blocks to mark desired location for column on the bottom of the support beam.
 - Place first double-tee bracket on the underside of the support beam so it is centered on the post location mark you made on the beam. The opening in the bracket should face out towards the yard. Use a carpenter's square to position the bracket so sides of bracket are perpendicular to the direction of beam. Mark the beam through the 4 holes in bottom of bracket, then pre-drill the screw holes using a 0.125" diameter drill bit into the beam using the marks you just made as guides.
5. Attach double-tee mounting bracket to underside of the beam where you marked and drilled, using 1/4" x 2-1/2" round washer-head screws
6. Insert and center the aluminum post in-between the 2 downward-pointing legs of double-tee mounting bracket you just attached to the beam. Let post rest on the floor. Use a level to plumb the post in both directions, and trace around bottom of post to mark the "plumb" location on the floor. Remove post and set it aside. This procedure will ensure that floor mounting bracket be in alignment with bracket already mounted to beam.
7. Place the second double-tee bracket on the floor so it is centered on the post outline you traced on the floor. Be sure it is facing same direction as bracket mounted to beam. Mark the floor through the 4 holes in the bottom of the double-tee mounting bracket and set bracket aside.
8. Pre-drill the floor using marks you just made as guides. Use standard twist drill bit for wooden floors and masonry bit for concrete or masonry floors.
9. Screw double-tee bracket to floor. Use the 1/4"x2-1/4" blue colored hex head concrete screws for concrete floors. Use the 1/4" x 1-1/2" round washer-head screws for wooden floors
10. Set the PVC column shaft on a pair of sawhorses. Use a portable circular saw to cut PVC column shaft 4" shorter than the floor-to-beam measurement.
11. With the column shaft lying across the sawhorses, slide the 3"x3" aluminum post into the PVC column shaft, with the end of the aluminum post extending an equal distance beyond each end of the PVC column. The aluminum post should rest on the back side of the column face that is resting on the sawhorses.
 - a. For a column that **WILL NOT BE LOCATED IN A CORNER** of the porch, center the 3"x3" aluminum post (left-to-right) on the back side of the column face that is resting on the sawhorses (be sure the aluminum post is extending an equal distance beyond each end of the PVC column). With a pencil, reach into the column shaft approximately 6" trace along the left and right edges of the aluminum post to mark the post's centered location on the back of the column face. Remove the aluminum post and set it aside. Mark the center point between your traced lines on the bottom and top edges of the column shaft.
 - b. For a column that **WILL BE LOCATED IN A CORNER** of the porch, you will need to determine the position of the 3"x3" aluminum post on the back side of the column face that is resting on the sawhorses based on your particular porch beam setbacks from the edge of

the porch floor. Once you have determined the position of the post inside the column, be sure that the sides of the aluminum post are running parallel to the adjacent sides of the PVC column. With a pencil, reach into the column shaft approximately 6" trace along the left and right edges of the aluminum post to mark the post's location on the back of the column face. Remove the aluminum post and set it aside. Mark the center point between your traced lines on the bottom and top edges of the column shaft.

12. Roll the PVC column shaft so the face that had been sitting on the sawhorses is now facing up. At the bottom and top edges of that column face, measure over 0.75" from the center marks you made, in both directions and mark those locations. Then, measure up from those 2 new marks and with a pencil, mark 1.50" & 4". When complete, you should now have 4 pencil marks on the face of the column at each end of the column. Use a 0.125" diameter drill bit and drill through the column shaft at each of these 8 marks.
13. Roll the column shaft back over so the face with the 8 holes is again resting on the sawhorses.
14. Slide the aluminum post back into the column shaft and align it with your traced pencil marks, with the aluminum post extending an equal distance beyond each end of the PVC column. Use clamps to temporarily attach the aluminum post to the PVC column shaft and roll the column back over so the face with the drilled holes is facing up again. Use #8-18 x 1-1/4" Phillips drive flat head self-drilling screws to secure the column shaft to the aluminum post.
15. Slide the cap and base over the bottom of the column shaft and slide them together a few inches up from the bottom of the column shaft. Put a screw partially into the column shaft exposed below the base to keep the base and cap from sliding down when placing the column into position.
16. Take one of the U-shaped PVC squaring blocks, slide it around the double-tee bracket attached to the beam, and screw the squaring block directly to the beam, using (4) corrosion resistant decking screws.
17. Take the second U-shaped PVC squaring block and position the L-shaped bracket included in the hardware kit. Use the 0.625" long screws included in the hardware kit to attach the L-shaped bracket to the squaring block. Set this squaring block aside temporarily.
18. Pick up the column assembly off the saw horses and slide the aluminum post into the brackets you mounted to the beam and floor.
19. Once the column is in place, check it for plumb in all directions. Adjust as necessary. Use (4) 1/4"-14 x 1-1/4" hex washer head self-drilling screws to secure the aluminum post to each twin-tee brackets. Use the predrilled holes in the twin legs of the brackets to locate your self-drilling screws. Pre-drilling the aluminum post is not necessary.
20. Take the second U-shaped PVC squaring block (with the L-shaped bracket attached) and slide it into position around the bottom twin-tee bracket. Use a 1/8" diameter drill bit and drill through holes in the vertical leg of the L-shaped bracket, into the aluminum post. Use the 5/8" long Phillips drive pan head screws to secure the L-shaped bracket to the aluminum post. This will secure the U-shaped PVC squaring block in its proper location.
21. Slide the cap up to the beam. The cap should slide over the squaring block that you attached to the bottom of the beam. Use corrosion resistant finish nails to secure the cap to the column shaft, and also fasten through the face of the cap into the edge of the squaring block attached to the bottom of the beam.
22. Remove the screw temporarily holding the decorative base, and let the base drop down to the ground. Use corrosion resistant finish nails to secure the cap to the column shaft, and also fasten through the face of the cap into the edge of the squaring block attached to the aluminum post.
23. Using an acrylic caulk, caulk around the column shaft at the cap and base as needed, and caulk any fastener holes as needed. Clean up any excess caulk with a damp rag. The column installation is complete! It is now ready to be primed and painted.

Painting & Finishing:

Lightly scuff surface of column. Clean surface of column to remove any dirt or hand oil residue with light detergent and water, denatured alcohol, or window cleaner. Be sure to remove soap residue with clean water. Apply one coat of 100% acrylic exterior primer and one or more finish coats of 100% acrylic exterior paint. Do not paint using dark colors (dark colors are considered to be any color that falls within the L Values of 56-0) L is a measure of the lightness of an object and ranges from 0 (black) to 100 (white).