



SilvaPost™ Installation and Handling Manual

Effective: January 2025

General information

SilvaPost™ is designed for use in dry service conditions, such as covered porches or interior structural applications, where a textured or smooth load-bearing post is required. Proper storage, handling, installation, and finishing are critical to ensuring the longevity and performance of this product.

Storage guidelines

Proper Storage to Prevent Damage.

1. **Elevate Material** – Place the first set of wood dunnage (blocks) on a dry, level surface, ensuring the material is at least 4 inches above the ground to prevent moisture absorption.
 2. **Stacking Requirements** – Keep dunnage spaced no more than 6 feet apart and ensure that each layer is stacked directly above the previous one for stability.
 3. **Protective Sealing** – All SilvaPost™ ends are factory-sealed with wax paint to prevent moisture infiltration. If material is cut, it must be re-sealed using a latex or alkyd-oil primer.
 4. **Protective Wrapping** – If the protective wrap is damaged, replace it only after ensuring the posts are dry. Do not wrap wet material, as this can lead to moisture retention and damage.
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Prior to installation

1. **Building Code Compliance** – Before installation, review and adhere to all local building codes and regulations.
2. **Moisture Prevention** – Do not install SilvaPost™ in areas where it may be exposed to standing moisture.
3. **Material Inspection** – Check all SilvaPost™ materials for profile, color, and quality before installation.
4. **Acceptance of Material** – Installation of SilvaPost™ constitutes acceptance of the delivered material, making the buyer responsible for its condition.
5. **Warranty Compliance** – To maintain warranty coverage, SilvaPost™ must be installed in accordance with these instructions. Failure to follow these guidelines will void the warranty.

Cutting instructions

- Use a fine-tooth hand saw or power saw with a carbide-tipped combination blade.
 - Ensure the cutting motion is into the face of the material for a clean finish.
 - All cut ends must be sealed immediately with an appropriate primer or paint to prevent moisture absorption.
 - For notching requests, consult SilvaStar before proceeding.
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Installation requirements

Structural Considerations

- Column Bases & Caps – Required for uplift applications. Use Simpson Strong-Tie® caps and base products or an equivalent. Follow the hardware manufacturer's installation guidelines for proper capacity and attachment.
 - Water Drainage – Ensure bases are angled away from the post to allow water to wick away and prevent moisture damage.
 - On-Site Adjustments
 - Trimming to length is permitted, but all trimmed and untrimmed ends must be re-sealed prior to installation.
 - Ensure all cuts are square and straight to maintain structural integrity.
 - It is the responsibility of the building designer, engineer, and installer to comply with all local codes and regulations.
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Finishing requirements

SilvaPost™ is manufactured from wood and comes factory-primed, requiring two additional topcoats to complete the finishing process (unless purchased prefinished). The topcoats must be applied within 60 days of installation.

Importance of Proper Paint Selection

- Paint Quality Matters – Low-quality or thinly applied paint can lead to discoloration, premature fading, and frequent repainting. For best performance and minimal maintenance, use high-quality paint in sufficient quantity.
- Surface Preparation – Before painting, remove any dust, dirt, mildew, or debris. Wash with mild detergent and water, then allow the surface to fully dry.

Recommended Paint Types

- **Best Choices:**
 - Satin, semi-gloss, or full-gloss exterior acrylic latex
 - Some systems may require a designated primer and topcoat combination
- **DO NOT USE:**
 - Shake and shingle paints
 - Vinyl acrylic paints
 - Flat oil paints
 - Vinyl acetate paints or co-polymers
 - Transparent or opaque stains
 - Clear coatings

Application Guidelines

1. **Prime & Seal** – All field-cut edges must be primed and painted using a high-quality exterior oil or acrylic latex primer suitable for wood.
2. **Complete Coverage** – Ensure all exposed surfaces, including the bottom edge, are thoroughly coated.
3. **Timely Application** – If the post is not painted within 60 days of installation, re-prime using an exterior primer recommended for wood-based products before applying the topcoat.
4. **Minimum Paint Thickness** – Apply enough coats to achieve a dry film thickness of at least 2.5 mils. This requires two or more non-thinned coats at the manufacturer's recommended spread rate.
5. **Application Methods** – Brush, roller, pad, or spray can be used. Brushing applies the most paint per coat, while spraying applies the least.
6. **Temperature Considerations** –
 - Do not apply water-based paint when the surface temperature is below 50°F or if temperatures will drop below 50°F within 24 hours.
 - Avoid painting in the late afternoon or evening during spring and fall, as dew formation can interfere with proper drying.
 - Allow at least 2 hours of drying time before sunset.
 - Do not paint in the early morning until dew has fully evaporated.

Important Disclaimer

SilvaStar is not responsible for the performance of field-applied finishes. The longevity and durability of the finish depend on the quality of the coating and the application method, which are the responsibility of the finish manufacturer and applicator.