

# PRO COLUMN STRUCTURAL POST INSTALLATION

## Tools Needed

- Safety glasses
- Pencil or pen
- Smooth face hammer
- Pneumatic nail gun
- Square (speed square)
- Level
- Portable power saw (miter saw)
- Fine tooth carbide tipped saw blades
- PPG interior/exterior grade primer (acrylic)
- Exterior-grade paintable paulk

## Storage

UFP-Edge products must always be protected from the elements. It is ideal to store the product under a covered area out of the weather, but at a minimum it should be covered with a breathable waterproof cover that allows air to circulate. Material must also be kept off the ground on dunnage (spaced no more than 4-6" apart) and on a level, stable surface. Protect the product from dirt, moisture, direct sunlight and extreme heat. Allowing material to acclimate to the local climate before installing it will yield better finished results.

## Before installation

- It is the responsibility of the installer to ensure all applicable building codes are met, based upon the application, prior to installation.
- Do not install UFP-Edge products over wet building materials and keep materials free from any continuous sources of moisture.
- Inspect posts prior to installation. Do not install posts deemed to be defective. Installation of the posts will constitute acceptance of product.

## Installation

### Cutting/machining

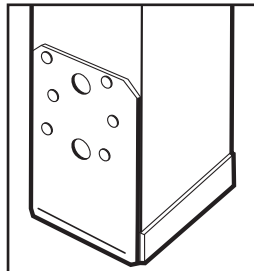
- The use of common woodworking tools is recommended. Power saws with a carbide-tipped combination blade work best. Always cut into the finished face for best finished results.
- Note that all cuts or machined areas must be primed with a quality primer/paint (see paint section for further details).

### Caulk

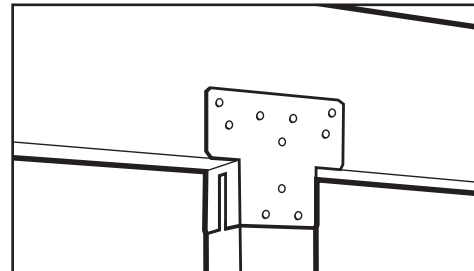
- Caulk should be used around any holes drilled into the post or areas that expose the hollow core or unpainted wood. Always use a high-quality, exterior-grade caulk that remains flexible and will move as the wood expands and contracts. Never use hard-setting caulks.

### Fastening

- Galvanized or other corrosion-resistant fasteners must be used. Ring shank nails are preferred.
- Nail heads must be driven snug with the surface of the material. Do not overdrive or countersink fasteners. If nails are driven too far in and wood fiber is exposed, the area must be caulked or painted to seal the wood.



Post Base



Post Cap

- Post bases and caps are the recommended means of installation and are required for uplift applications. Standard connectors can be sourced from Mitek/USP or Simpson Strong Tie for structural applications. Post bases should be used in most applications to create the 1" spacing between wood and concrete or brick. A wide variety of bases and caps are commercially available. Ensure any hardware meets local building codes for the post application.
- Refer to hardware manufacturer for attachment methods and load ratings.
- If making wood-to-wood connections where vertical loading is the only concern (i.e. no uplift requirements), toe nailing is acceptable.
  - 8d – 2 ½" nails. 6" posts and narrower require one nail per side of the post or 4 nails on each end. 8" requires 2 nails per side of the post or 8 nails per end.
- Predrilling for fasteners is recommended, especially near the ends of the posts. Predrilling is required if utilizing lag screws.
- Through bolting is not permitted for structural connections.

### Drilling holes

- Holes can be drilled into the posts if accurately sized and spaced. Holes for 4" posts should not exceed 5/8"; holes for 6" posts should not exceed ¾". All holes must be centered in the post and spaced no closer than 8". Holes should not be drilled within 12" of either end of the post.
- All holes need to be sealed to prevent water intrusion.

### Moisture control

- Lumber and finish issues are typically caused by moisture, causing the lumber to expand and contract at a greater-than-typical rate, causing nail pops, splitting, checking and paint degradation. Proper handling and building practices can prevent most performance issues.
- Pro Column structural posts should only be applied to structures that are well ventilated and dry.
- Post clearance requirements:
  - 6" above finished grade or landscaping
  - At least 1" above brick or concrete.
- In all applications, UFP-Edge Pro Column should not be placed where water can leak into the middle of the post or come into contact with standing water.

## Paint

- Any paint or primer used should be high quality coating and applied to the manufacturer's specifications. Application method and conditions will significantly impact the performance of the coating and the substrate.
- Primer: When primed material is field cut or wood is exposed, it must be primed to prevent the uptake of moisture. All field cuts must be re-primed with one coat of at least (5) wet mills of a PPG interior/exterior primer prior to installation to meet warranty requirements. If primed product is left exposed or unfinished for an extended period of time (60 days or longer), all surfaces should be primed again before finish coat applications.  
*Primers should be a high-quality exterior oil or acrylic latex primer formulated for wood.*
- Surface preparation: All surfaces must be free from dirt, dust, mildew or other loose or foreign material. Washing the surface with water and a mild detergent may be required to properly prepare the surface. Allow the surface to fully dry before painting.
- For best finish results, use satin/semi-gloss or full gloss exterior acrylic latex. These finishes perform better than flat finishes.
- All exposed surfaces must be well coated, paying special attention to the bottom edge on any horizontal applications since this area is especially prone to moisture uptake.
- Top coat must be applied to material that has a moisture content of 15% or less.
- All exposed surfaces must be top-coated with 1.5 – 2.5 dry mills of high-quality, 100% acrylic coating within 60 days of installation. It must be done in accordance with the manufacturer's published instructions.

## PRODUCT DIMENSIONS

UFP-Edge Pro Column	Actual Dimensions	Load Rating Info
4 in. x 4 in. x 8 ft.	3-3/8 x 3-3/8 x 8	5,444 LBS
6 in. x 6 in. x 8 ft.	5-3/8 x 5-3/8 x 8	22,306 LBS
8 in. x 8 in. x 8 ft.	7-1/8 x 7-1/8 x 8	42,122 LBS
4 in. x 4 in. x 10 ft.	3-3/8 x 3-3/8 x 10	3,590 LBS
6 in. x 6 in. x 10 ft.	5-3/8 x 5-3/8 x 10	15,959 LBS
8 in. x 8 in. x 10 ft.	7-1/8 x 7-1/8 x 10	33,891 LBS
4 in. x 4 in. x 12 ft.	3-3/8 x 3-3/8 x 12	2,530 LBS
6 in. x 6 in. x 12 ft.	5-3/8 x 5-3/8 x 12	11,644 LBS
8 in. x 8 in. x 12 ft.	7-1/8 x 7-1/8 x 12	26,308 LBS

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