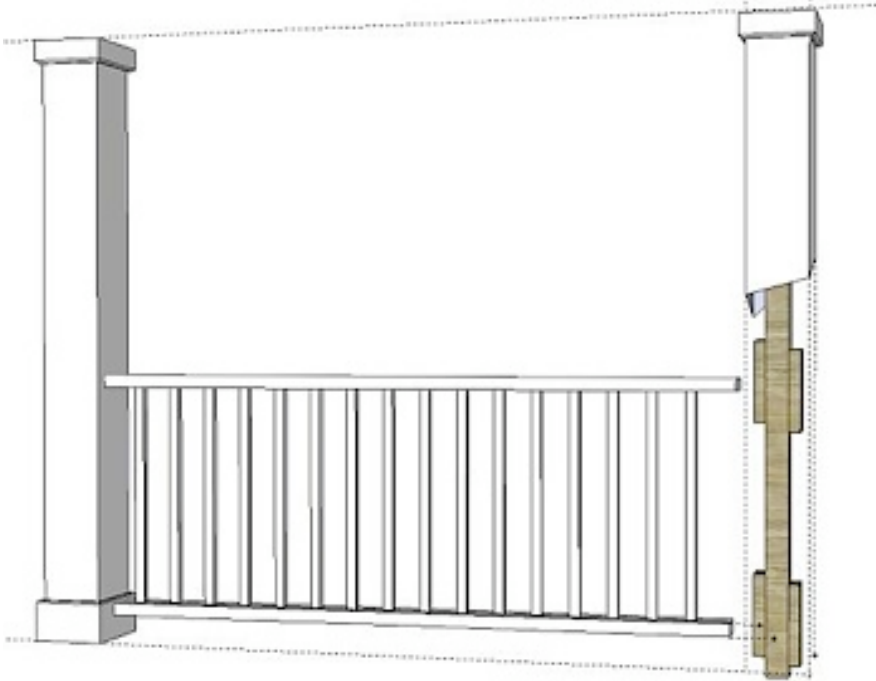# TIPS & BEST PRACTICES
FOR INSTALLING PVC COLUMN WRAPS

Safety: This is NOT to be intended to be taken as safety advice, see specific safety precautions in the owner's manual of your power tools.

Handling: We suggest that you use gloves and great care in handling your PVC parts. Unlike wood, edges on PVC can be razor sharp.

Load-Bearing Capacity: PVC column wraps are purely decorative and have not been tested for load-bearing capacity.

Railings: If there are railing to be installed, insure the rails are secured to the structural support. Use only code approved methods for installation. Use a metal bracket or pressure treated lumber the thickness of the space between the support post and the inside of the PVC wrap. Do not use un-treated lumber for structural or railing support.

Cutting and Fastening: Cellular PVC can be cut, nailed, and fastened with the same tools as used for wood, with a few differences. Avoid large power framing nailers and pre-drill for any screws larger than 1 ½". Coarse threaded screws are best.
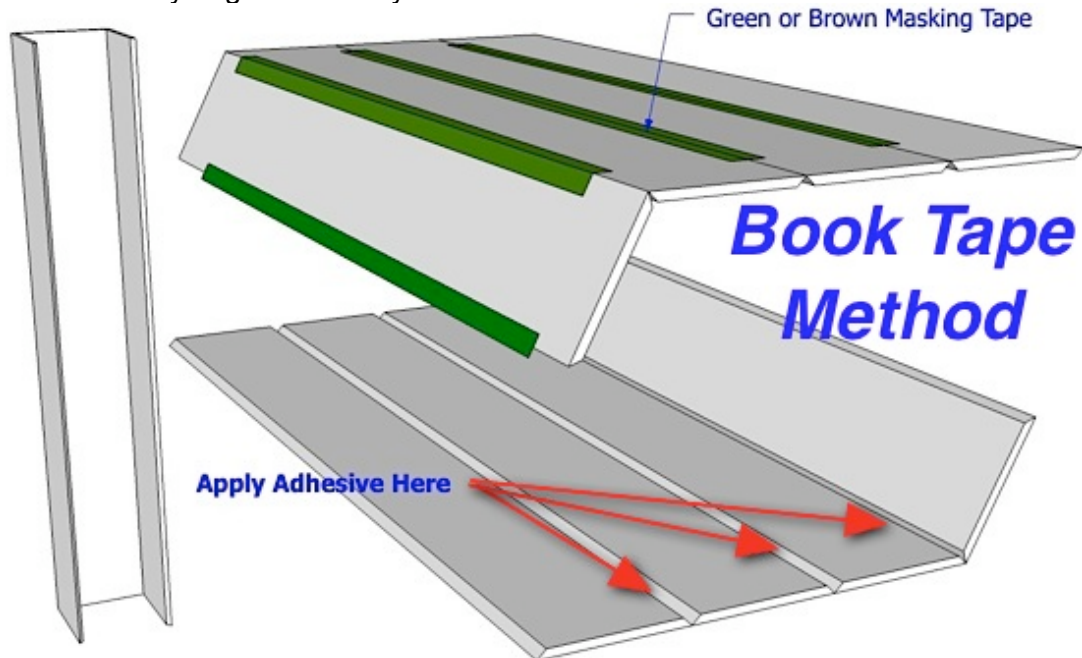
Cold Temperatures: Cellular PVC becomes brittle the colder it gets. Keep columns indoors prior to installation when working in cold temperatures. Avoid striking the face of the column with a hammer.

Painting: When cellular PVC columns are painted, you can not tell them apart from there wooden counter parts. Cellular PVC does not require painting for protection. Paint lasts much longer when applied to PVC versus adhering to wood due to the absence of internal moisture.
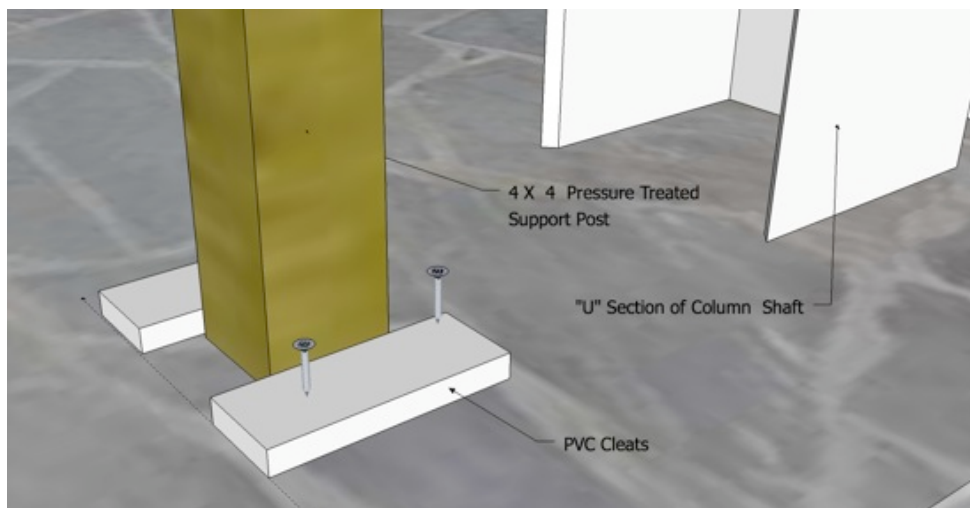
If painting is preferred, follow the following guidelines. Putty any holes using acrylic putty or caulk. Lightly sand or scuff surface of the column. Clean surface of column to remove any dirt or oil residue with light detergent and water, or window cleaner. IMPORTANT - Use 100% acrylic exterior paint or acrylic with urethane additive paint with a light reflective value (LRV) equal to or greater than 55 units. Failure to follow this requirement will void our product warranty. Consult Sherwin Williams or Blue River Coating in applications where the paint color has an LRV value less than 55 units
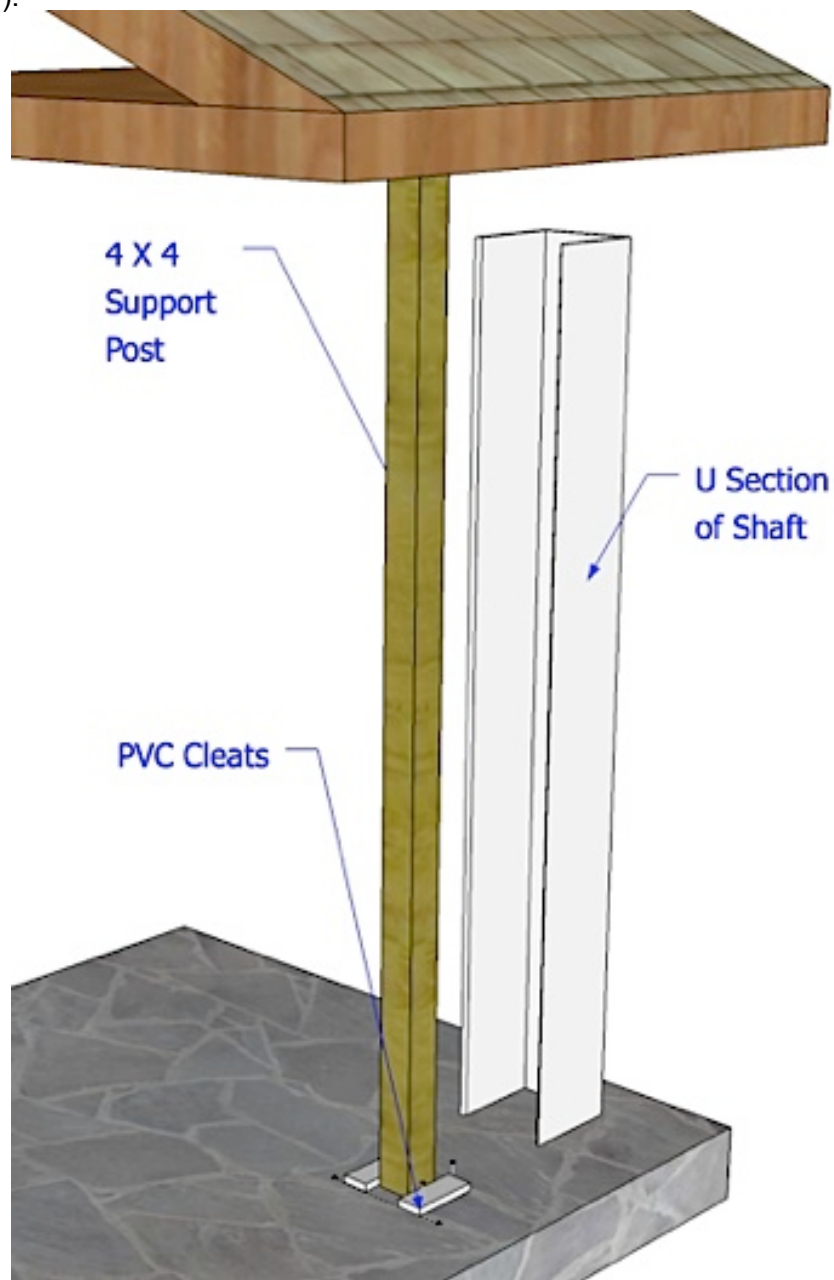
Non-Tapered PVC Wrap Installation Tips

1. Measure the height of where the column is to be installed. Reduce this measurement by 1/2" and cut to size.

2. The process of taping together column panels, applying adhesive to 90 degree or lock mitre joints, then rolling and folding them into shape is called the "book tape method". This method makes a very tight seal, which results in a strong bond. Test to make sure that the panels are square then fasten with a air stapler or brad nailer.
Using the book tape method, tape three panels together to form a "U". Make sure that the lock miter edges or 90's line up with each other. Pin or screw this U section to the cleats. Others suggested that two "L" shaped pieces should be assembled but we find using the U method easier as trees or shrubs are less likely to get in the way.

3. Place the partially built shaft be place and level (plumb). With a pencil, mark where the top and bottom of the column shaft is to be positioned, marking the inside measurement.

4. Fasten using Tapcon Screws, staples, pins, and/or adhesive the enclosed PVC cleats to the bottom of the shaft, direct contact with concrete is acceptable. For the top, use Pressure Treated Lumber cleats(not included).

4 X 4 Support Post

U Section of Shaft

PVC Cleats

5. You are now ready to glue and tape in the last panel.

6. Once the glue has set, remove the tape and pin the cap and base in place.

7. Fill any imperfects with exterior caulking or spakeling, sand and you're ready to paint. Painting is not necessary but does improve the appearance of the column wrap.