



GRC COLUMN COVER STORAGE, INSTALLATION & FINISHING INSTRUCTIONS

Prior to beginning any installation, be sure you have a set of the most current shop drawings on the job site. Review and understand all information on these drawings prior to beginning installation. Inventory the GRC pieces you have received and compare to the shop drawings. Confirm quantities and dimensional correctness prior to beginning installation.

Prior to beginning installation, unwrap or uncrate a random sampling of pieces. Column covers may or may not be shipped in matching pairs. If they are shipped in matching pairs, the matching nomenclature will be clearly detailed on the Bill Of Lading and the pieces themselves. In theory, all pieces of a particular type should match unless shipped in matching pairs.

Inspect the insides of the pieces for any protrusions or obstructions that will interfere with matching, mating or attachment of pieces. Use a belt sander, rasp, saw, or grinder for removal.

SINGLE HIGH INSTALLATION

- 1) GRC column covers should be installed using the alignment clips supplied by FCBP. These clips are designed to promote an accurate matching of column cover halves.
 - 2) Begin by positioning the first half of the column cover. Mechanically attach metal or pressure treated wood clips to the structure at both the top and bottom of the column cover. The clips should be set immediately behind the GRC at the seams and the mid-point of the piece. Pre-drill pilot holes through the face of the column cover into the clips. Screw attach the GRC column piece into the clips with non-corrosive screws and countersink the screw heads.
 - 3) When installing the first half of the column cover be sure to allow for any slope or imperfections in the concrete slab. Shimming above the slope/imperfections may be required.
 - 4) Once the first half of the column cover is installed, begin by installing the “alignment” clips. Clips should be installed near the column cover top and bottom and approximately 18” o.c. along both sides of the initial half. Alternate the orientation of the alignment clips. Clips should be anchored with non-corrosive drywall screws and the screw heads should be below the finished surface level.
 - 5) Loose fit the second half of the column cover to ensure proper fit and alignment. The alignment clips will promote a better match between pieces. However, they do not guarantee an optimum match. Some shimming or grinding on the inside of the second half may be required. It may be necessary to use a band clamp or webbing to pull the two column cover halves together and obtain the tightest fit.
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- 6) Prior to final installation of the second half of the column cover, apply a continuous bead of silicone adhesive along the full length of both edges of the first half of the column cover. Final fit the second half of the column cover and secure to the alignment clips on one side only. Shim up or down the other side of the second column cover half, obtaining the optimum match, prior to securing the alignment clips. Be sure to use only non-corrosive drywall screws. The screw heads should be below the finished surface level.
- 7) Sand or rasp any high spots along the seam lines so that the sides are flush with each other.

DOUBLE HIGH INSTALLATION

- 1) The same basic process outlined above is applicable. However, there will be a few minor but important modifications.
- 2) The tops of the lower column cover pieces will have 2" wide horizontal flanges and the bottoms of the upper column cover pieces will have 2" wide horizontal flanges. These flanges are for use in stacking the pieces.
- 3) Follow steps 1-7 in the SINGLE HIGH INSTALLATION. Install horizontal kickers anchored to the center structural column. These kickers should fit snugly underneath the 2" wide top flange on the lower pieces. The kickers and their attachments to the center structural column should be sized to support the dead load of the upper column cover pieces.
- 4) Place a bead of silicone based adhesive on the top of the 2" wide top flange on the lower pieces. Install both upper column cover pieces by following steps 1-7 in the SINGLE HIGH INSTALLATION.

PATCHING AND JOINT FINISHING

- 1) Materials supplied by First Class Building Products, Inc. (FCBP)
 - Cement & Air Entraining Agent
 - Bonding Agent/Polymer & Water (Premixed in a 1:1 Ratio)
- 2) Locate and identify the 2 items listed above. For all uses of the Bonding Agent/Polymer, the diluted ratio described above will be used. Be sure the Bonding Agent/Polymer solution is thoroughly mixed.
- 3) The GRC material to be finished should be thoroughly dry prior to beginning the finishing process.
- 4) A minimum temperature of 55 degrees F. should be maintained throughout the finishing process and for at least 48 hours after completion of the process.

- 5) All joints to be finished must be fully adhered with a silicone adhesive.
- 6) It is advisable to provide for adequate ventilation of the back side of all material.
- 7) Typically, there will be two types of joints to be finished:
 - a) Flattened spots at the joints or 1/8" X 1 1/2" recesses at the joints
 - b) A butt joint with a very slight bevel.
- 8) To finish the flattened spot joint or 1/8" X 1 1/2" recesses:
 - a) Wipe the flattened area with a wet sponge and allow the water to soak in.
 - b) Paint the flattened area with Bonding Agent/Polymer and allow to become tacky. Depending on conditions this should take approximately 5-15 minutes. DO NOT paint any area which has not been wetted with water. If you do, the Bonding Agent/Polymer solution will eventually delaminate.
 - c) Add the Cement mixture to a small amount of this solution until reaching the desired consistency. Mix thoroughly. Mix small batches since working time is limited. However, working time can be extended by periodically re-stirring the compound. DO NOT ADD ADDITIONAL WATER!!!!
 - d) Tape and finish the flattened area with fiberglass tape and "mud". Build to the desired level. Sand and repeat the process. When repeating the process be sure to include steps (a) & (b).
 - e) Allow compound to dry enough for sanding between coats.
- 9) To finish the butt joint:
 - a) Wipe the seam with a wet sponge and allow the water to soak in.
 - b) Paint the seam with the Bonding Agent/Polymer and allow to become tacky. Depending on conditions this should take approximately 5-15 minutes. DO NOT paint any area which has not been wetted with water. If you do, the Bonding Agent/Polymer solution will eventually delaminate.
 - c) Add the Cement mixture to a small amount of this solution until reaching the desired consistency. Mix thoroughly. Mix small batches since working time is limited. However, working time can be extended by periodically by restirring the compound. DO NOT ADD ADDITIONAL WATER!
 - d) Fill the seam. Allow to dry and sand smooth
 - e) Repeat steps (a) – (d) if necessary.

- 10) FCBP does not recommend the finishing of horizontal stack joints. Typically, these joints should be caulked with a silicone sealant. If the horizontal stack joints are to be finished, it is imperative that the following steps be followed:
 - a) Fully adhere/bond the flanges at the stack joint with a silicone adhesive.
 - b) Use some form of a “soft” or slip joint at the top of the column cover to allow a relief point for thermal expansion and contraction.
- 11) To patch dents, dings and imperfections prior to priming the GRC follow the steps outlined in (9). Be sure to wet the problem area and paint it with the Bonding Agent/Polymer solution.
- 12) To patch dents, dings, and imperfections after the GRC has been primed, use “EXTERIOR PATCH-N-PAINT” supplied by FCBP. This lightweight spackling compound may be applied with a putty knife or similar tool. It can be sanded in 15-20 minutes, if necessary. It can be painted in 20-30 minutes with an oil based paint or primer.
- 13) ALL COLUMN COVERS MUST BE PRIMED WITH A PRIMER PRIOR TO RECEIVING DECORATION. MORE THAN ONE COAT OF PRIMER MAY BE REQUIRED. SANDING AFTER APPLICATION OF PRIMER MAY BE REQUIRED.

STORAGE

- 1) GRC column covers should be stored in a dry location away from dirt and mud.
- 2) If the column covers are delivered in wooden crates or frames, leave them in their containers until you are ready to begin installation.
- 3) Store containers on level ground or pavement.
- 4) If the column covers are delivered loose, store in a completely horizontal position or as close to a vertical position as possible.
- 5) If stored in a horizontal position the pieces should be stored open side down. Pieces should not be stacked on top of each other. In fact, any form of applied weight to the top side will cause the pieces to “open” up.
- 6) If stored in a vertical position the pieces should be adequately braced to prevent them from toppling over.