

SilvaPost® Installation and Handling Manual

Updated: 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.

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.

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.**