

Basic Installation, Modification and Care Guide

What you will find in this document:

- General installation and product information
- Installation instructions for attaching to Wood
- Installation instructions for attaching to Concrete, Block, Brick or Stone
- Installation instructions for attaching to Vinyl Siding
- Installation instructions for attaching to Fiber Cement Siding
- Hardware choices
- Cutting, drilling or modifying your Durabrac® component
- Painting information
- Proper care of your Durabrac® components.

Many years ago, wood components were attached to wooden homes. Nails and/or screws were used for installation and special care was taken to not split the wood.

Today, homes are made of many different materials. Durabrac® components can be attached to any number of these materials with no fear of cracking or splitting.

Detailed below are installation recommendations for the most common types of materials: wood, concrete, brick, block, stone, vinyl and fiber cement siding.

General Information

Whenever possible, install your Durabrac® product before installing the trim around columns or posts. If this is not possible, all Durabrac® components are easily trimmed or altered using standard wood-working tools.

Durabrac® components are not pre-drilled for fasteners. Pre-drilling is recommended for ease in installation, but not required. Durabrac® products are not susceptible to cracking or splitting, however, it is recommended to always pre-drill when using large bolts or oversized screws. We do not provide mounting hardware. Mounting hardware recommendations can be found in the guidelines that follow.

Attaching to Wood:

Durabrac® products are commonly installed to a wood surface with nails or common deck screws. A deck screw is identified by its thin profile with over-sized threads. Galvanized nails and screws are acceptable for most installations. Coastal locations with a strong salt content in the air should use stainless steel fasteners. Brass fasteners with coarse threads are also acceptable.

1. Locate the best area to attach two screws. It is important to note that the best area is not always at the extreme end.
2. *Optional.* Pre-drill holes to insure proper alignment.
3. Countersink screws. Countersinking will help hide the screw head. This is accomplished by driving the screw slightly deeper than the surface of the component. Using nails instead of screws is acceptable for small to medium-size brackets.
4. Seal with caulk. Always caulk any areas where components contact wood or painted wood surfaces.

Attaching to Concrete, Brick, Block or Stone:

When installing to hard masonry surfaces you will want to use a **plastic sleeve anchor**. *See picture.*

1. Pre-drill holes in the product where fasteners will be installed.
2. Hold the bracket in its installation location and mark the masonry surface with a pencil where the fastener will be anchored.
3. Drill a hole on the designated marks using a masonry drill bit the appropriate diameter recommended by the



Sleeve Anchor

- sleeve anchor manufacturer. (Using a hammer drill to drill these holes will make the job go much faster.)
4. Drill the holes slightly deeper than the length of the sleeve you plan to use. Clean loose debris and dust from the hole.
5. Push the sleeve anchor into the hole. It should be flush with the surface and fit snugly into the hole. Repeat this with all required holes.
6. Install the product by inserting a screw through the pre-drilled hole in the bracket and into the plastic sleeve anchor. Do not over tighten. To better hide the screw head, counter sink the pre-drilled hole just below the surface before installing the



Plastic Inserts

screw. To help judge this depth, drill the countersink until the hole is slightly larger than the diameter of the screw being used for the installation.

7. After the screw is installed, apply a thin layer of white latex caulk to hide the screw head.
8. Finish the installation by applying a thin bead of white latex caulk where the product meets the structure. Do this on both sides of the product.

The Tapcon® alternative for attaching



A faster method to install into a masonry surface is to use Tapcon® masonry fasteners (www.tapcon.com). Tapcon® are best identified by their deep blue color. The blue color is also a corrosion resistant coating. Tapcons® tap their own threads as you install them.

Pre-drill your brackets for the Tapcon® screws. Using the pre-drill holes as a guide. Drill holes for the fastener into the masonry using the drill bit provided with the Tapcon® purchase. Drill the hole slightly deeper than needed. Install the bracket by screwing the

Tapcon® fastener through the bracket and into the pre-drill concrete hole. Do not over tighten.

Tapcon Warning! Do not apply excessive twisting force or you risk breaking the fastener in the hole. If you meet resistance while installing the screw, stop, remove the screw, and inspect the hole for debris and proper depth. Start again with a new fastener.

The use of Tapcon® fasteners may best be limited to professional installers familiar with the process.

Attaching to Vinyl Siding:

Attaching Durabrac® components by directly screwing through the vinyl siding is not recommended. Vinyl siding is installed to hang on your home. You may not notice it, but vinyl siding expands and contracts with temperature changes throughout the year. Durabrac® products that will meet at the siding should be firmly installed at the top with a fastener and simply allowed to rest against the siding. Adding the optional frames to your bracket order will add more support.

1. Pre-drill holes in the product where fasteners will be installed.
2. Hold the bracket in its installation location and mark the surface with a pencil where the fastener will be anchored.
3. *Optional:* To secure the bracket to vinyl siding without drilling holes use clear, 100% silicone caulk. Do this by applying a ¼ in. bead of silicone caulk on the bracket where it will contact siding.
4. Carefully align the bracket to its top location then push the bracket up to the

siding so silicone can adhere. Install a fastener (nail or screw) into the pre-drilled holes in the top. An assistant will make this step easier. Be careful not to use too much force on the silicone side of the bracket and force all the silicone out as it will weaken the bond. It is best to leave a small space between the bracket and the siding that you can later fill with latex adhesive caulk.

Attaching to Fiber Cement Siding:

Fiber cement siding is a strong durable material. Because it is relatively thin it doesn't hold fasteners well.

Durabrac® components are best attached to fiber cement siding with plastic inserts that are similar to plastic inserts used to attach to dry wall.

The size and depth of the hole depend on the manufacturer's recommendations of the anchor you choose.

Drill your holes with a hammer drill. Use drill bits designed for concrete, stone and brick.

It is always a good idea to seal the edges where the product meets the house with Latex Caulk or Silicone Sealant.

Hardware Choices

Installation hardware is not provided. Individual climates require different types of hardware. What is acceptable in a dry northern climate may not be a good choice for a southern coastal climate. If need advise or help in selecting the appropriate hardware for your environment, please consult your local hardware store.

Cutting, Routing or Drilling Durabrac® Material

Do you need to modify your brackets or cut them to fit around trim? You can alter Durabrac® components with common hand and power tools used to cut, drill or rout wood. Whenever possible, install the bracket first then install trim up to the brackets. If you should do any altering, remember, you can sand your brackets. Wet sanding is recommended for faster results.

Painting Your Brackets

If you have a wood home with wood trim you know how involved painting wood can be. Moisture seeping behind painted finishes is the main cause of peels, cracks or checks.

That is not the case with Durabrac® components. The material Durabrac® is made from does not allow moisture to penetrate behind a properly applied painted surface. Components painted with bright colors are subject to fading from contact with the sun's rays. Should you need to repaint a Durabrac® component, sanding and scraping is not necessary as with wood products.

Painting Durabrac Brackets is very easy. Use a quality latex paint. Apply the paint by brush or spray. No special primer is needed. Wash and rinse prior to painting with a grease-cutting detergent. Dishwashing detergent works well to remove dirt and oily hand prints.

While the material manufacturer states that sanding or roughing the surface is not necessary, the use of a Scotch Brite® pad or a soap free scouring pad to wash the product will lightly scratch the surface and give the paint a rougher surface for better bonding. This method also insures that stuck on dirt and foreign material will be removed.

Care and Cleaning of Your Brackets

Care for your Durabrac® components with a periodic washing with a mild soap or detergent. A pressure washer may be used but do so with care. Do not direct a concentrated pinpoint stream from the pressure washer on the bracket. You may pressure wash painted Durabrac® components as long as you use wide sweeping motions and keep the nozzle tip at least 18 inches from the surface.

We hope you enjoy your Durabrac® selection. We work hard every day to provide you with the best possible product. Please feel free to contact us with any questions or comments you may have.

Email: info@durabrac.com.

Phone: 850.433.4981 9:00 am - 4:00 pm CST

Copyright© 2009 CD&M