

UNIQUE DESIGNS FOR THE FINISHING TOUCH ON YOUR NEXT PROJECT



Bracket Sizing and Installation Guide

Welcome to the Durabrac® sizing and installation guide for porch and corner brackets. This guide has been prepared to answer any questions you may have about our brackets and recommended ways to install them.

What you will find in this document.

- An explanation of the material we use and benefits.
- Guidance on selecting the style, size, and options that best fit your needs.
- An installation guide with specifics for installing to different types of building material.
- Cutting, drilling or modifying brackets.
- Hardware choices.
- Painting information.
- Ordering information and a guide to using the website.
- Proper care for your Durabrac® components.

The Material

All Durabrac® components are manufactured from a high grade of cellular PVC vinyl. Durabrac® components have the feel and weight of wood. We select our raw material based on color, stability and UV protection. No painting is required. You can leave them natural white. If you desire, Durabrac components can be easily painted with a quality latex paint. No special priming is needed and our components resist paint peeling and cracking because Durabrac® components do not absorb moisture. Properly painted Durabrac component will give you many years of trouble free service.

Selecting a style

Style is a personal choice. For your convenience, we grouped our components into three different group styles. The groups are Long Hollow, East Hill, and Coastal Cottage.

Long Hollow

- Today's modern neighborhoods offer beauty, practicality, and tremendous value in terms of amenities. The homes can, however, sometimes lack originality. Long Hollow levels the playing field. This simple, stylish line will transform an ordinary house into a unique, distinctive home, proving that "less" really is

“more.” Express yourself. Add that special touch. Incorporate Long Hollow vinyl trim into the exterior design of your home to create a place that’s cozy, warm, and full of character.

East Hill

- Our East Hill collection recaptures the feel of the turn-of-the-twentieth century, a time when homes were adorned with “carpenter's lace” and friends gathered on the front porch to enjoy fresh lemonade as the sun set over their charming neighborhoods. This ornate, Victorian line echoes the characteristics of historic communities: grand yet quaint, vintage yet vibrant, classic yet trendy. The exquisite detail leaves nothing to the imagination of this collection.

Coastal Cottage

- Eclectic. Funky. Unique. If these words describe you or your home, the Coastal Cottage collection of vinyl gingerbread is right for you. Simply put, our original designs don’t get any more original than this. Look closely at these works of art for hidden treasures such as a ship’s wheel, a crescent moon, or an ocean wave. Let your creativity come alive. Express yourself. Make a statement. Your home never looked so good. .

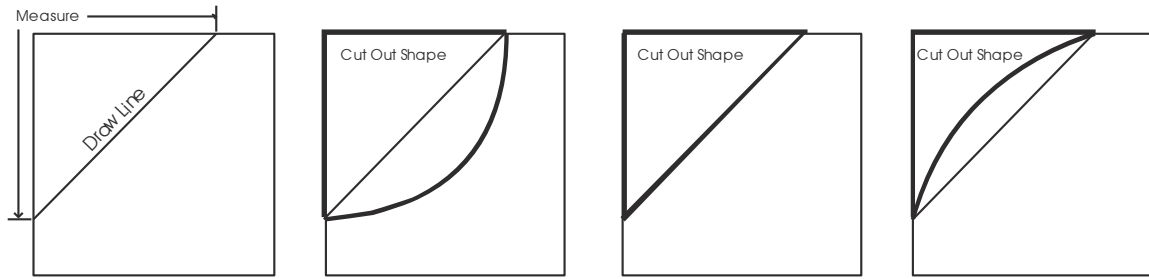
Select the proper size bracket and options.

Selecting the right size bracket can be tricky. This is because the different shapes and styles cause brackets that are the same size to look very different when compared with each other.



The above brackets are all the same size. The first bracket appears larger than the other two. It also seems closer to the middle bracket. The bracket to the right looks the smallest because its shape curves inward. The bracket on the left curves outward. That is why it appears larger.

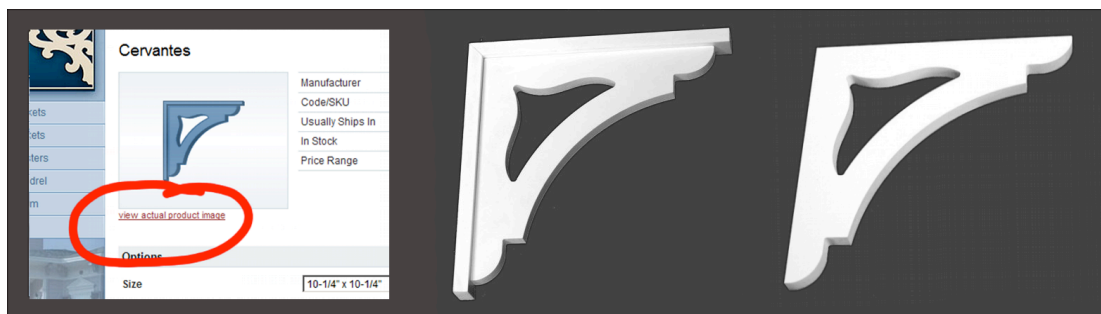
A good visual way to see what size bracket you would like to use is to cut a shape from cardboard as shown on the examples on the top of the next page. Measure from the cardboard’s corner across and measure down the side to get the size you are considering. Draw a pencil line at an angle to connect these two points. If your bracket choice curves inward draw an arc inward. If your bracket choice has an outward shape, draw the arc outward. Don’t worry about detail. You are only trying to get a feel for proper size. Take this cardboard shape and tape it in place then stand back some distance to see how the bracket would look and if the size is correct.



Do I want or need Frames?

A frame is additional material added by us to give your bracket a wider area where the bracket meets the house. The frame will add size and dimension to the bracket. A frame adds up to 1-1/2" to the width and length of a bracket. A 12" by 12" bracket with a frame will actually measure approximately 13-1/2" by 13-1/2".

To view a bracket with a frame or without a frame, select ***“view actual product image”*** on a bracket page from the website. The illustration below directs you to that link.



You do not need a frame to add strength to a Durabrac bracket. Wood brackets need frames because they are susceptible to cracking along the grain. They also would crack from the fasteners used to attach them. A frame gives wood brackets more strength and integrity. Durabrac brackets have strength in all directions and are not susceptible to cracking without a frame.

It is important to remember that you can choose frames for Durabrac® brackets because they add size and dimension. This is a personal preference. A framed Durabrac bracket does add more area to set fasteners into and it provides more of a historical.

Bracket Installation

General information

Whenever possible, install brackets before installing the trim around columns of post. If this is not possible, all Durabrac components are easily trimmed or altered using standard woodworking tools. Durabrac components are not pre-drilled for fasteners. Pre-drilling is recommended but not required. Durabrac brackets are not susceptible to cracking or splitting. 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.

Installing Brackets to wood

Durabrac® brackets are commonly installed to a wood surface with nails or common deck screws. A deck screw is identified by its thin profile with over sizes 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.

Installing Brackets to Brick, Block Stone or Solid Concrete

When installing to hard masonry surfaces you will want to use a **plastic sleeve anchor**. Pre-drill the brackets then mark the masonry surface where the fastener will be anchored. Drill a hole using a masonry drill bit the diameter recommended by the sleeve anchor manufacturer. Using a hammer drill to drill these holes will make the job go much faster.

Drill the holes slightly deeper than the length of the sleeve you plan to use. Clean loose debris and dust from the hole. 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.



Sleeve Anchor

Install the brackets by screwing through the pre-drill hole in the brackets 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 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. After the screw is installed, a thin application of white latex caulk will hide the screw head. Finish the installation by applying a thin bead of White latex caulk where the bracket meets the structured. Do this on both sides of the bracket.

The Tapcon® alternative

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.

Installing Brackets to Vinyl Siding

When installing brackets to a house with vinyl siding it is best to avoid penetrating the siding with fasteners.

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. Carefully align the bracket to its top location then push the bracket up to the siding and install a fastener into the top to hold the bracket in place. An assistant will make this step easier. It is important that you do not force all the silicone out which will weaken the bond. It is best to leave a small space between the bracket and the siding that you will later fill with latex adhesive caulk.

To create more surface area to bond to the siding, you may want to select the “Vinyl Siding Pad” option for the brackets that will contact the vinyl siding when ordering. This option doubles the surface area that will contact the vinyl siding for a more secure bond. If you are purchasing your brackets with the “Bracket Option” you do not need a Vinyl Siding Pad because the bracket option will serve the same purpose.



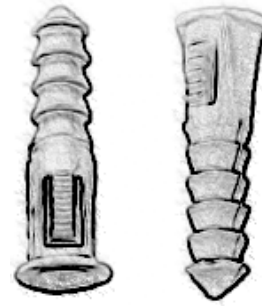
Vinyl Siding Pad

Installing Brackets to Fiber Cement Siding

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

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

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



Plastic Inserts

Cutting, routing or drilling Durabrac material

Do you need to modify your brackets, or cut them to fit around trim or other non fitting situations? 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. You can sand your brackets. Wet sanding is recommended for faster results.

Hardware Choices

We do not provide installation hardware. With all the installation variables, it would be impossible for us to provide for them all. Fasteners that are acceptable for inland areas would not be acceptable in a coastal area. Hot dipped galvanized fasteners are acceptable for most areas except coastal areas. Use stainless steel or brass fasteners for installations near oceans and bays. If you're not sure what fasteners to use for your environment, or the material you intend to fasten to, you should consult a local expert. Many times this advice is as close as your local hardware store.

Painting Your Brackets

If you have a wood home with wood trim you know how involved painting wood can be. That is not the case with Durabrac® brackets. The material Durabrac® brackets are made from does not allow moisture to penetrate behind a properly applied painted surface. Moisture seeping behind painted finishes is the main cause the finish peels, cracks or checks.

Components painted with bright colors are subject to fading from contact with the sun's rays. Should you need to repaint a Durabrac® component you will not be subject to all the time consuming scraping and sanding required in a repaint a wood surface.

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. 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 will lightly scratch the surface and gives the paint a rougher surface to bond to. This method also insures that stuck on dirt and foreign material will be removed. *Scotch-Brite is a registered trademark of the 3M Company*

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 18 or more inches from the surface.

Our goal is that the information found in this guide will answer whatever questions you may have. If you need more information or have a specific question, please contact us at info@durabrac.com. You may also call me at 850.433.4981 between the hours of 9:00 am and 4:00 pm Central Standard Time.

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