Installing Wellington Column Wraps with Column Caps onto an Existing Support Post
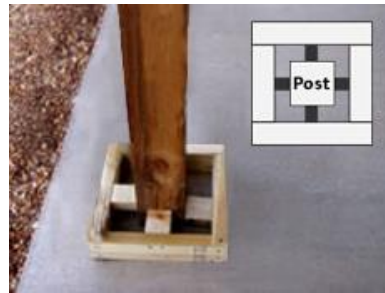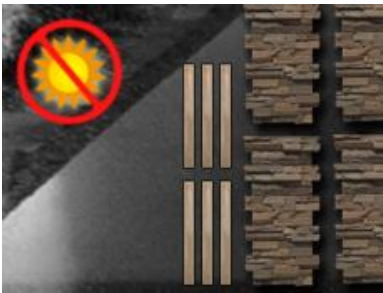
Tools and Supplies You'll Need

You can install Wellington columns easily using tools found in almost everyone's toolbox. To complete your project you will at least need these basic tools:

1. Exterior Grade Screws - use screws that are long enough to go through the FauxPanel and firmly attach to the wall behind the FauxPanel. We recommend a narrow head screw (such as a #1 Robertson head trim head screw) to make touch-up easier and less noticeable.
2. Construction Adhesive/Glue — we recommend either PL® Premium Construction Adhesive, PL® Premium Advanced 3X Construction Adhesive (which has 3x faster bonding), or Great Stuff Pro.
3. A saw for cutting column panels – a circular saw, jig saw, band saw, table saw, or hand saw, it is your preference. Any woodcutting blade used with these saws work great and cut smooth and easy.
4. Tape Measure
5. Level
6. Caulking gun for applying the Adhesive/Glue and Caulk.
7. FauxPanels® color coordinated textured caulk.
8. 2" x 4" lumber as needed
9. Exterior grade plywood as needed

Directions:
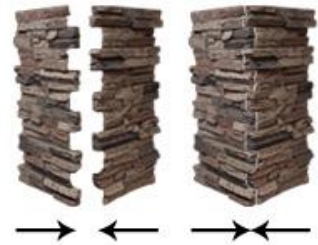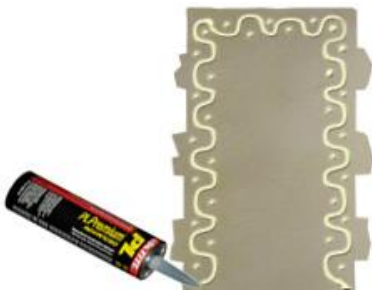Below are directions on how to install a Wellington Column Wrap

1. Before you start, make sure the surfaces of posts, the columns, and the column cap is clean and dry. Acclimatize the Faux Columns, the post, the plywood and the lumber to roughly the same temperature and humidity for about 24 hours prior to installation. Avoid having any of these materials stored in direct sunlight, or close to heat sources.

2. In order to provide a secure and well anchored base for the column wraps a sub frame has to be constructed. Make sure to construct this structure (including the plywood) to fit the inside dimensions of the Faux Column Wrap. This frame had to be centered on the existing support post and securely shimmed to maintain a solid and plumb connection to the existing wood column.

3. Then apply the exterior grade plywood to the wood sub frame to serve as the surface for attaching the Faux Column Wrap panels. Dry fit the Faux Column Wrap panels onto the structure to ensure proper sizing.
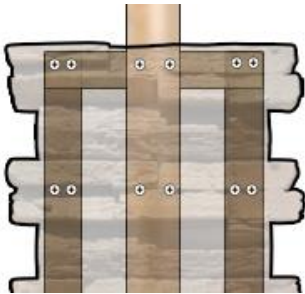
Hint: leave a small amount of extra room for the thickness added by the adhesive that will be used between the column panels and the plywood.

4. Apply a bead of glue/adhesive to the perimeter of the back of one of the Faux Column Panels. Roughly an inch from the edge. Apply additional glue/adhesive to the rest of the back of the column panel in a zigzag pattern. With beads of glue/adhesive not more than 4" apart or so. Add a small amount of glue to the inside of the interlocking "fingers" of the Faux Column Wrap. Then add a small amount of the color matched textured caulk to the edges of the "fingers" where they will join with the next section of the Faux Column Wrap.

5. Apply the Faux Column Wrap to the plywood. Use a slight twisting motion to help insure a good contact with the glue/adhesive, and the plywood. The PL® Premium Advanced 3X Construction Adhesive will help to hold the individual column panels in place on the plywood and give you some working time to put the other column panels up.

6. Repeat steps 4 & 5 for each of the other sections of the Faux Column Wrap. Fit the interlocking "fingers" together.

7. Make sure the column wrap is level and the fingers all fit together nicely. Begin fastening the column panels to the plywood with screws all around the perimeter at roughly one foot apart or less. Additional screws are needed to be in the middle of each section of Column Wrap panel at a rate of about 1 screw per square foot. All screws should be very slightly recessed below the surface of the column panels. Do not over tighten the screws. **Hint:** Placing screws under protruding rocks, in crevices, or grout lines, to help conceal them will give a cleaner/more realistic look.

8. Before the texture caulk dries be sure to use a damp rag to wipe off any excess caulk that may have squeezed out for between the joint between the two column panels. Use the textured caulk to conceal the screw heads as well.

9. Now you can start the next row up if you are installing multiple rows of Faux Column Wraps. Repeat steps 4-9 for the next row of column panels to be installed. Note: The column panels were designed to butt up to each other bottom to top. This joint should also be caulked to insure a tight seal that has a seamless look.

10. Cut the Column Cap into two halves. The cut is made along the diagonal in order to help hide the seam by following the original creases of the cap. Then make a cut out in each of the two cap halves to allow them to fit around the existing porch support post.

11. Prepare the Faux Column Wrap to accept the Column Cap over it. To obtain a good tight fit of the two halves of the column cap some of the top 1.5" - 2" of the panels had to have some of the stone protrusions shaved down slightly.

12. Apply glue to the tops of the tops of the Column Wraps and to the wood sub-structure to secure the Column Cap in place. Glue the two halves of the cap together and set it in place, pressing down firmly. Use screws to hold the two halves of the cap together and also to hold the cap to the panels and sub-structure.

13. Lastly, using the paint from the Touch-up Kit, paint the FauxPanels®, screw heads, and textured caulk as needed. Stand back and admire your handiwork. (In this project shown, additional wood was added to the structural support post to create a dramatic tapered look.)

Important Info...

Be sure to follow and obey all safety rules and recommendations set forth by tool manufacturers. Always follow any, and all, local, state, and federal building codes.
Always comply with any specified clearances set forth by the manufactures of stoves, fireplaces, furnaces, and any other heat sources, as well.