

Technical Bulletin – Mounting to Waterproof Decks

With waterproof decks, we recommend using fascia mounted posts. However, if this is not possible, there are several steps you can consider to protect the integrity of the waterproofing.

Mounting Surface – The most important factor for preventing water infiltration is the mounting surface. This is because any load applied to the post is transferred directly to the deck connection. Without adequate blocking, there will be flexing at the connection and the possibility of breaking the watertight seal. We recommend at least 3” of solid blocking as the best first step to achieve a securely anchored post and maintaining a proper seal.

Base Plate Gasket – With our aluminum systems, we use a gasket under the base plate. The gasket is sized to channel water away from the base plate and provides additional sealing around the lag screws. The gaskets work best on non-textured waterproof surfaces or on top of flashing

Screw Caulking – We recommend dipping the lag screws in polyurethane sealant before installing them in slightly undersized screw holes. This provides more seal between the wood and screw threads, seals around the screw head, and also fills the base plate with sealant.

Screw Washer – Added protection can be achieved by using selected washers. In our post systems, we use either a special bonded sealing washer or a cup washer with cap to keep moisture away from the holes. The sealing washer has neoprene bonded to one side and a slightly rounded shape. When the screw is cinched down, the washer flattens out forming a seal.

Base Plate Caulking – We do not typically recommend caulking around the base plate as the above steps will usually provide sufficient protection. Base plate caulking is exposed to the elements and general abuse and can result in a situation where moisture ultimately sealed in. Sealed moisture is the worst condition with regard to creating structural damage.

Mounting pedestal – Another option is to install a composite pedestal base before waterproofing the deck. This creates a raised platform and prevents water from pooling around the base plate.