

**BELCO** 



**BELCO XT<sup>®</sup> PRESERVATIVE  
TREATED PRODUCTS  
Installation Instructions**





Congratulations on selecting Belco XT Products, the ultimate in natural wood, treated trim products for your project! This manual covers installation instructions for both Belco XT Post and Belco XT Trim. Failure to install Belco XT products in accordance with our written instructions may lead to injury, violation of building codes and voiding the product warranty. For more information visit us at [belcofp.com](http://belcofp.com).

## Best Practices - BELCO XT POST and BELCO XT TRIM



### MOISTURE

- Keep Belco XT Products stored in a clean dry environment. Do not install wet product.
- Keep installed Belco XT Products away from continuous moisture sources and use proper flashing and moisture control techniques to minimize water intrusion.
- Avoid direct contact with stucco, brick or cultured stone.



### SEAL

- SEAL ALL FIELD CUTS with a premium 100% acrylic latex primer.
- Top coat all exposed surfaces (including field cuts) sixty (60) days of installation with two (2) coats of 100% acrylic latex exterior grade paint intended for wood per manufacturers' application instructions.
- Belco XT POST - Holes must be flashed and/or caulked to prevent moisture intrusion. Follow manufacturers' application instructions for best results.
- Belco XT TRIM - A premium, flexible, paintable caulk is required at all joints and where Belco XT TRIM abuts siding, windows and doors.



### FASTEN

- Use ONLY corrosion resistant fasteners such as stainless steel or hot-dipped galvanized nails. Leave nails snug or flush with the surface. Do not use staples.
- Belco XT TRIM - Place fasteners no less than 1/2" from ends and edges of BELCO XT TRIM. Double nail the ends to structural framing members. For 6" wide boards, double nail along the length. For 4" and narrower boards, single nail along. For 8" and wider boards, triple nail along the length.



### CLEARANCES

- Maintain 8" above finished grade. Maintain 1" clearance above concrete, flashing or any surface that may collect water.
- Belco XT TRIM - Maintain a 3/16" expansion gap between butt joints and aforementioned abutments to allow for proper caulking per manufacturers' application instructions.



## STORAGE

BELCO XT POST must be stored flat, in a clean and dry environment (preferably on stringers in a warehouse or covered area) until the time of installation. Avoid any contact with the ground, concrete, or standing water. Keep BELCO XT POST clean and dry. Inspect products prior to installation as installation of wet product may result in shrinkage. Belco Forest Products (“Belco”) IS NOT responsible for damage caused by improper storage, maintenance, or installation of BELCO XT POST.

## WATER RUNOFF & MOISTURE CONTROL

Where BELCO XT POST is in close contact with concrete or soil, a post base MUST be used to raise the post a minimum of one (1) inch above concrete or eight (8) inches above the soil. BELCO XT POST must have a clearance of at least one (1) inch above any surface that may collect water; said surface must be sloped or otherwise designed for proper drainage so BELCO XT POST is not directly exposed to standing water.

The structure to which BELCO XT POST is applied should be well vented and dry. As with other wood products, BELCO XT POST must be kept free from excessive moisture. Exposure to constant sources of water (sprinklers, condensation), inadequate sealing or flashing, or failure to follow common building practices that prevent moisture intrusion, may cause damage to the product and affected products may not be covered by the warranty.

## CUTTING & MACHINING

BELCO XT POST can be notched for use as a deck post. Cut notch using a circular saw and finish corners with a handsaw or jigsaw. Vertical cut length will vary depending on the depth of your deck framing. Typically, cut the notch so the bottom of the post stops 1/2” above the bottom of the deck joist. If your deck is sloped, match the slope in the horizontal cut that will sit on top of your decking. Fasten per building codes. ALL field cuts and machined products MUST be sealed with a premium, 100% acrylic primer and topcoated per finishing instructions. See Finishing.

**BETTER:** Treat with a suitable wood preservative end cut solution and topcoat per instructions found later in this document.

**BEST:** Treat with a suitable wood preservative end cut solution, and prime with a quality, 100% acrylic latex primer and topcoat per instructions. See finishing.

## FASTENING

DO NOT use staples. Use only corrosion resistant fasteners, such as stainless steel or hot-dipped galvanized nails, and install per hardware manufacturers’ recommendations.

It is recommended that all connector holes are pre-drilled. Pilot holes are required for lag screws, whose maximum permitted diameter is 1/2”. Through-bolting is permissible when used as a deck post. See Simpson Technical Bulletin on Code-Compliant Guardrail Post Connections (T-C-GRDRLPST17)

## INSTALLING

### Uplift Application

When BELCO XT POST has been designed for use in an uplift application, post bases and caps are REQUIRED. Belco recommends Simpson Strong Tie products but products of equal properties are accepted. Refer to base and cap manufacturer’s instructions for capacities and connector attachment.

### Vertical Load Only Application

When BELCO XT POST has been designed for use in a vertical load only application, a nailed connection can be implemented.

Raised Base  
 Connection

Column Base  
 Connection

Column Cap  
 Connection



## Accessory Holes

When BELCO XT POST is modified with the installation of lights or other accessories, holes sizes shall be limited to the following:

- 4x4:5/8" diameter
- 6x6:3/4" diameter
- 8x8:3/4" diameter

Holes shall be centered on the post and spaced vertically, at least eight (8) inches apart for multiple holes. Holes other than those required for installation of approved post bases and caps are NOT permitted within eight (8) inches of the top or bottom of the post.

If holes expose the conduit opening in the center of BELCO XT POST, they must be flashed and/or caulked to prevent moisture from entering the space. For caulking, use an exterior quality, flexible, paintable caulk. Follow the caulk manufacturer's instructions for application. DO NOT use hard-setting caulk.

## FINISHING

All exposed surfaces, including field cuts of BELCO XT POST MUST be topcoated with two (2) coats of quality, un-thinned, 100% acrylic latex, exterior grade paint intended for wood siding within sixty (60) days of installation. Paint must be applied and maintained (including repainting) in strict accordance with the paint manufacturer's specifications.

Before painting, remove any dust, dirt, mildew or other debris by gently washing the BELCO XT POST surface with a brush, water and mild detergent. DO NOT use a pressure washer. Allow ample dry time for all BELCO XT POST products before painting.

Belco recommends satin/semi-gloss latex, full-gloss acrylic latex or solid-body stains. Oil or vinyl-based paints and stains should not be used.

Belco does not warrant the performance of field applied finishes. Finish performance is dependent upon the quality and quantity of paint used, the methods under which it was applied, all of which are controlled by the paint manufacturer and applicator.

### Allowable Axial Load Capacities

Column Length (ft)	4X4			6X6			8X8		
	C <sub>D</sub> =1.0	C <sub>F</sub> =1.15	C <sub>F</sub> =1.25	C <sub>F</sub> =1.0	C <sub>F</sub> =1.15	C <sub>F</sub> =1.25	C <sub>F</sub> =1.0	C <sub>D</sub> =1.15	C <sub>F</sub> =1.25
8	2452	2820	3065	9774	11240	12217	19239	22125	24049
10	1695	1950	2119	8405	9666	10507	18333	21083	22916
12	1212	1393	1515	6678	7679	8347	16790	19309	20988
14	-	-	-	5195	5975	6494	14580	16768	18226
16	-	-	-	4091	4704	5113	12192	14020	15240
18	-	-	-	3283	3776	4104	10089	11603	12611
20	-	-	-	2686	3089	3357	8390	9649	10488

1 All allowable load capacities are determined for compression only in accordance with the Design Values as published in the APA Product Report PR-L321. Allowable load capacities assume dry use, untreated applications in sustained exposure of temperatures < 100°F (38°C).

2 For wet service conditions the allowable axial capacity should be multiplied by CM = 0.73.

3 For service conditions above 100°F (38°C), the allowable axial capacity should be multiplied by the appropriate Ct factor in Table 2.3.3 of the National Design

Specification for Wood Construction.

4 Table assumes that effective column length is equal to actual column length and end conditions are rotation free, translation fixed.



## BELCO XT<sup>®</sup> TRIM

BELCO XT TRIM is a decorative, non-load bearing trim product. Do not use BELCO XT TRIM in load-bearing conditions. Acceptable structural applications include garage jambs, fascia applied direct to rafters or outlookers and as bellyband or barge board.

Failure to install BELCO XT TRIM in accordance with these written instructions may lead to injury, violation of building codes, and voiding of the product warranty.

### STORAGE

To help minimize movement, allow BELCO XT TRIM to acclimate to local conditions prior to installation. BELCO XT TRIM must be stored flat, in a clean and dry environment (preferably on stringers in a warehouse or covered area) until the time of installation. Avoid any contact with the ground, concrete, or standing water. Avoid storage in the extreme sun or hot weather for prolonged periods of time.

Keep BELCO XT TRIM clean and dry. Inspect products prior to installation as installation of wet product may result in shrinkage. Belco Forest Products ("Belco") IS NOT responsible for damage caused by improper storage, maintenance, or installation of BELCO XT TRIM.

### WATER RUNOFF & MOISTURE CONTROL

A minimum of eight (8) inches MUST be kept between BELCO XT TRIM and finished grade. If applied adjacent to roofs, porches, patios, sidewalks, etc., BELCO XT TRIM must have a clearance of at least one (1) inch above any surface that may collect water; said surface must be sloped or otherwise designed for proper drainage so BELCO XT TRIM is not directly exposed to standing water.

The structure to which BELCO XT TRIM is applied should be well vented and dry. DO NOT install BELCO XT TRIM over soaked or buckled sheathing, or any other structure that has excessive moisture conditions.

As with other wood products, BELCO XT TRIM must be kept free from excessive moisture. Exposure to constant sources of water (i.e. – sprinklers, condensation), inadequate sealing or flashing, or failure to follow common building practices that prevent moisture intrusion, may cause damage to the product and affected products will not be covered by the warranty.

### CUTTING & MACHINING

For the cleanest cut, a hand saw or power saw with a fine-tooth carbide tipped blade is recommended. The cutting action should be into the face of the material, positioned so dust will be blown away from the user and others in the working area.

For door and window openings, 45° diagonal cuts of trim ends are acceptable. If making scarf joints, cut on a 22.5° angle.

BELCO XT TRIM can be mitered, ripped and/or routed for decorative applications. Machining depth should not exceed 5/16" for 1" products and 1/2" for 5/4" and 2" products. Machined products should not have any flat surfaces where water can accumulate. An angle of at least 100° from the vertical must be maintained to provide adequate drainage.

For end cuts and machined products, prime with a quality, 100% acrylic latex primer and topcoat per instructions. See Finishing.

**BETTER:** Treat with a suitable wood preservative end cut solution and topcoat per instructions. See Finishing.

**BEST:** Treat with a suitable wood preservative end cut solution, prime with a quality, 100% acrylic latex primer and topcoat per instructions. See Finishing.



## CAULKING

Use an exterior grade, premium, flexible, paintable caulk. Follow the caulk manufacturer’s instructions for application. DO NOT use hard-setting caulk. Caulk is required at all butt joints and scarf joints, and where BELCO XT TRIM abuts siding, windows, and doors.

## FASTENING

DO NOT use staples. Use only corrosion resistant fasteners, such as stainless steel or hot-dipped galvanized nails (minimum 8d recommended). Fasteners must be long enough to penetrate the structural framing members a minimum of 1-1/4”. Drive nails perpendicular to the framing and trim, leaving nails snug or flush with the BELCO XT TRIM surface. DO NOT overdrive or countersink the fasteners. If this happens, see chart for corrections.

All joints must fall on a structural framing member. Place fasteners no less than 1/2” away from the ends and edges of the BELCO XT TRIM. Both ends MUST be double nailed and additional fasteners must be spaced a maximum of twenty-four (24) inches on center, along the length of the board OR both ends double nailed and additional fasteners spaced a maximum of twelve (12) inches on center along alternating edges of the length of the board. If boards are eight (8) inches or wider, three (3) nails along the width of the board are required. For scarf joints, Belco recommends double nailing each end of each board but the double nailing of one end so it penetrates both pieces is acceptable.

Condition:		Correction	
Snug		OK	
Flush		OK	
Visible fiber		Paint	
Countersunk, 1/16 - 1/8”		Apply caulk	
Countersunk, more than 1/8”		Apply caulk & re-nail	

For butt joints\* and where the edges of BELCO XT TRIM abut siding, windows, and doors, leave a minimum of 3/16” space to allow for proper caulking.  
\*This may not apply to corners and window trim. See Installing.

## INSTALLING

### Horizontal Trim & Belly Band

Flashing is required over all horizontal trim. Belco recommends a sloped metal Z-fashing.

### Batten

If using trim less than three (3) inches wide as battens, apply one nail per width, every twenty-four (24) inches. For all other widths, refer to instructions in the “Fastening” section.

When battens are applied over siding at vertical joints, sealant is not required. When applied to walls with horizontal joints, DO NOT run the battens over the joints and fashing. Horizontal band boards should be properly fashed above and below the board, with fashing installed below the board covering the top ends of the batten strips below. Leave a minimum 3/8” space between the end of the batten and the band board and DO NOT caulk.

### Corners

BELCO XT TRIM width must extend beyond the face of the siding. Corner trim edge may lightly touch the adjacent trim edge. Caulking of the corner abutments is acceptable but not required.

Belco recommends installing BELCO XT TRIM directly to the structure but installing over the siding is acceptable. If using this method, the width of the trim must overlap the siding by a minimum of two (2) inches and caulking between trim and siding is not required.



If pre-assembling corners, cut BELCO XT TRIM pieces to size with clearance requirements in mind. Set pieces perpendicular and pre-drill fastening holes a minimum of twenty four (24) inches on center. Fasten with proper nails as outlined in the “Fastening” section.

### Windows, Doors & Openings

Be sure to follow window and/or door manufacturers’ guidelines for trim installation. All openings must be properly sealed and properly flashed to avoid excess moisture. Trim ends may lightly touch adjacent trim edges around windows and doors only. Caulking of the window & door trim abutments is acceptable but not required.

For window sill, fasten one edge by nailing into the face of the product, where the material starts to bevel, at a diagonal into the framing member. Product should be single nailed at a maximum of sixteen (16) inches on center, alternating between the face of the board and coming up on the underside of the board.

### Fascia & Rake

BELCO XT TRIM may be installed directly to rafter tails. If BELCO XT TRIM extends beyond the protection of the roof system, it may not be covered by the warranty. To minimize exposure to the elements, attach a metal coping to the BELCO XT TRIM that is integrated with the roofing system. Install a drip edge to prevent water buildup behind the fascia and use gutters wherever possible. DO NOT attach gutters directly to BELCO XT TRIM.

At corners, all joints must be supported by framing and do not nail the face of one fascia member into the edge of another.

### Mounting Blocks

BELCO XT TRIM width must extend beyond the face of the siding. Prime and paint all cut ends, edges and holes. For onsite assembled blocks, use metal Z-fashing over the top side of mounting block. Leave a minimum 3/8” space above the fashing and DO NOT caulk. For pre-assembled blocks, leave proper spaces at the two sides and bottom. Caulk said spaces along with the mounting block cutout.

### Adjoining Stucco, Brick or Cultured Stone

To avoid direct contact with stucco, brick or cultured stone, Belco recommends separating materials with a minimum 1/2” space and caulking. Refer to caulking and cladding manufacturer’s instructions for additional spacing and sealing requirements. Metal fashing, polyethylene flm, felt or masonry standoffs may also be used. Apply sloped Z-fashing over the horizontal trim to redirect water to the outer surface of the wall.

## **FINISHING**

All exposed surfaces, including feld cuts of BELCO XT TRIM MUST be topcoated with two (2) coats of quality, un-thinned, 100% acrylic latex, exterior grade paint intended for wood siding within sixty (60) days of installation. Where feld-cut ends meet at butt or scarf joints, a bead of caulk along the joint line serves as an acceptable form of moisture control.

Paint must be applied and maintained (including repainting) in strict accordance with the paint manufacturer’s specifications.

Before painting, remove any dust, dirt, mildew or other debris by gently washing the BELCO XT TRIM surface with a brush, water and mild detergent. DO NOT use a pressure washer. Allow ample dry time for all BELCO XT TRIM products before painting.

Belco recommends satin/semi-gloss latex, full-gloss acrylic latex or solid-body stains. Oil or vinyl-based paints and stains should not be used.

Belco does not warrant the performance of feld applied fnishes. Finish performance is dependent upon the quality of paint used, quantity of paint used and the methods under which it was applied, all of which are controlled by the paint manufacturer and applicator.



LOOK FOR THE MARK WHERE THE  
TREATMENT COMES STANDARD.

