

# **Installing PVC Panels for Porch or Deck Railings**

## **Installing Your PVC Railing Panels**

There are as many ways to install our panels as there are people installing them. We have a system we use at The Porch Company which we will share with you. Ultimately, it is the responsibility of the installer to assure code compliance and structural integrity.

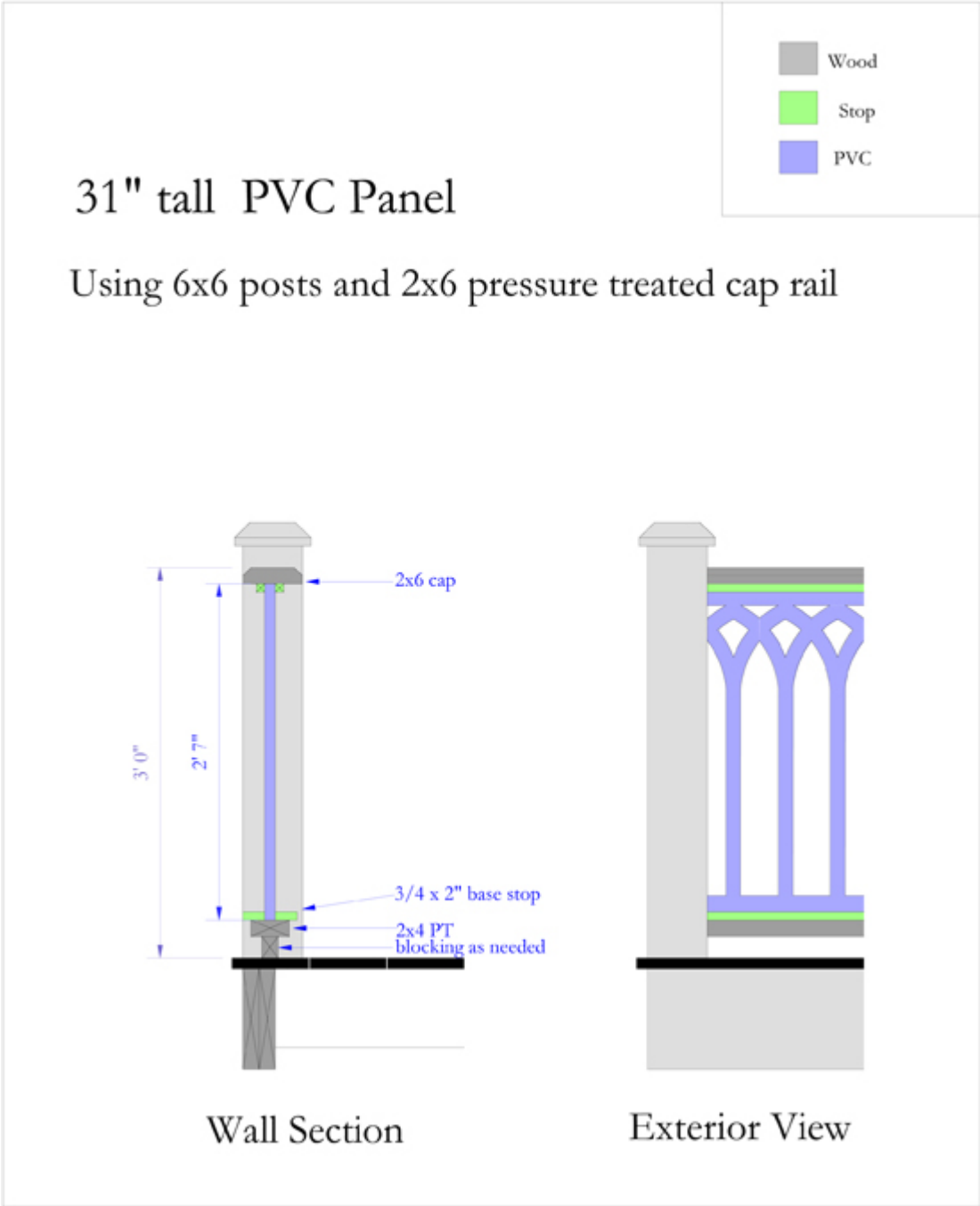
You probably purchased our panels because of our distinctive designs. But the maintenance free nature of them may be equally important to you. We still need the structure that wood brings by adding a cap and bottom rail. The cap rail, being flat and exposed to the rain and sun will require some maintenance. Some will want a PVC cap to go with their PVC panels. So we are suggesting two different installations, one with a wood cap and one with a PVC cap.

For either method, we suggest a post every 8' with a block under the base rail every 4'. We apparently like to rip material to be custom in size because we sure do it a lot. We use a ¾" x ¾" stop and a ¾" x 2" stop to secure the panels. We rip this out of 1x pressure treated material. Unless you bundle and dry this material ahead of time, make sure you rip this just before you install it. As anyone who has worked with pressure treated lumber knows, it will move on you very quickly. Of course you can use other woods like cedar, cypress, or redwood, but they are significantly more expensive and they don't last as long. We use pressure treated lumber but go to great lengths to keep it from moving on us.

When butting two panels together, use a PVC glue to secure the connection.

## **Wood Cap Install**

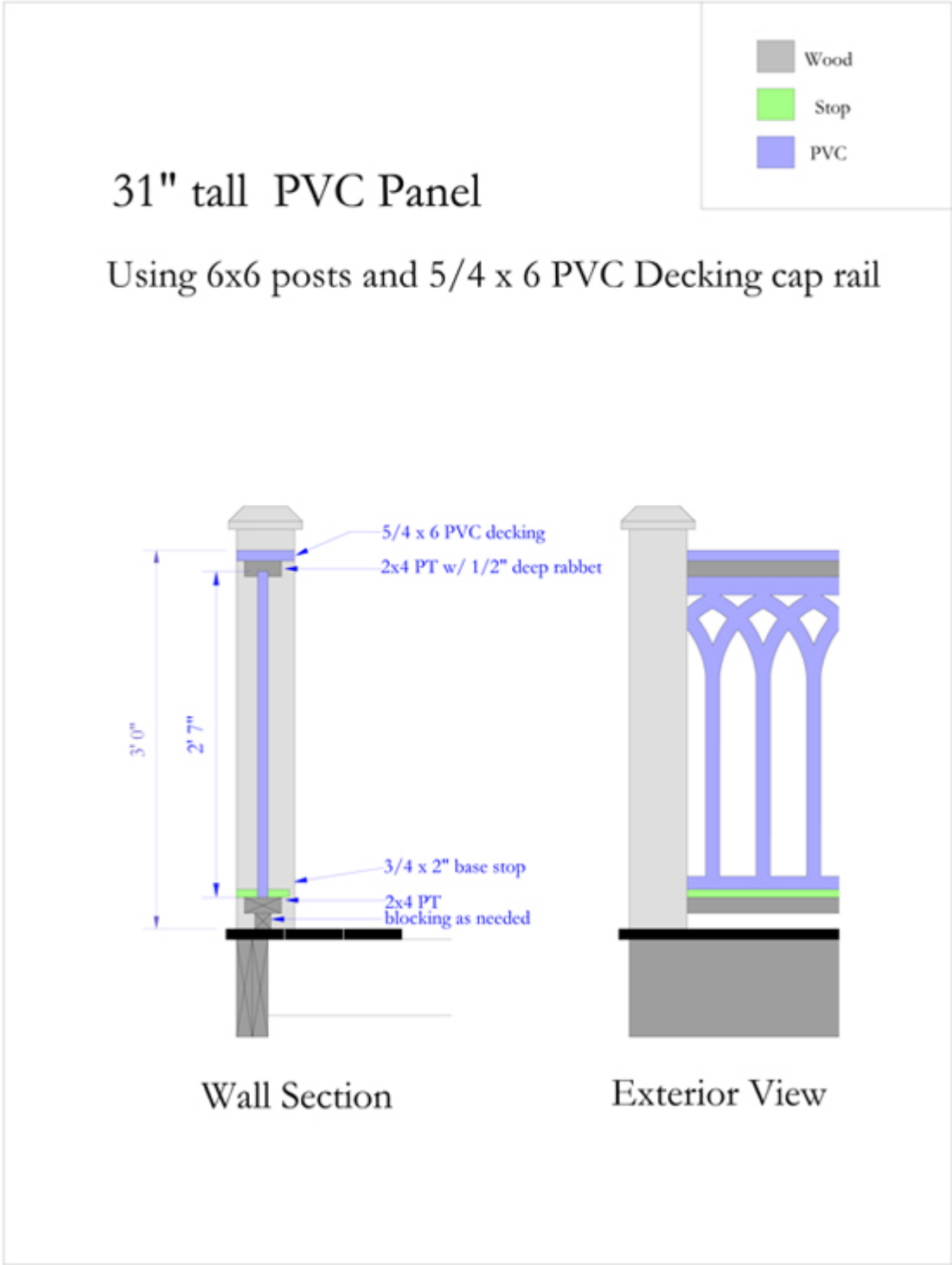
We sandwich the top of the panel between the ¾" x ¾" stop which is screwed into the cap rail from the underside and into the PVC panel. We use the larger stop – ¾" x 2" for the bottom rail and again, sandwich the PVC panel. We like to route the edges of a 2x6 for the cap rail to shed water and to dress up the cap. We suggest using a solid color stain rather than paint on the cap rail. To keep it fresh, reapply once a year. Only the cap needs that yearly maintenance.



**PVC Cap Install**

Because the PVC decking that we use for a cap rail is not structural, we still need a wood cap. We use a 2x4 pressure treated board and cut a 1/2" deep by 1" wide rabbet in the bottom. The

PVC panel slides into this groove and we screw from the top of the 2x4 into the top of the panel. Then the PVC decking is applied on top of the 2x4.



If you have questions, please email us at [PorchStore@porchco.com](mailto:PorchStore@porchco.com).

