

Titan Wood Post Anchor - Installation Guide



Hi, I'm Richard, the guy who created the Titan Post Anchor™, and I just want to say two quick things. First, congratulations as you have just purchased the most advanced wood post anchor of its kind. Your deck posts are going to look great and are going to last a long, long time. Second, I am going to show you step by step how to install your anchors and posts perfectly every time.



Here's A Summary Of What Follows:

Tools and Hardware Required - What Type of Wood Post? - Attaching Anchor to Post - Preparing the Deck Surface - Attaching Post and Anchor to Deck - Special Instructions - You're The Boss

TOOLS AND HARDWARE REQUIRED

Warning: Before beginning work, engage professionals to ensure that this product is appropriate for your intended application or to help clarify if these warnings are unclear or if you do not understand any of the information in this installation guide. Always comply with applicable building codes and be advised that building codes may vary.



3 lbs. hammer – You will need this to drive the anchor and tube into the guide hole at the bottom of the post. This will work much better than a standard hammer, especially if you are using a harder wood post like fir or ipe.



1 1/4" diameter hole saw (1 7/8" length) – You will need this to cut a guide hole into the bottom of the post.



Hole saw arbor – You need one of these in order to use a hole saw blade. If you already have one, then just make sure you have a 1 1/4" diameter hole saw blade.



1 1/4" Forstner or Spade bit – ONLY REQUIRED for hard wood posts OR if you encounter a problem of post splitting. A Forstner bit cuts easier than a spade bit and is used to remove some of the wood so the hole saw can be used for a second deeper pass. **Please see Special Instructions.**



4 – 5/16" x 3.5" galvanized lag bolts with 5/16" galvanized washers – These will be used to bolt the anchor to the bottom of the post in unison with the tube that penetrates the center of the post.



8 – 1/4" x 3" galvanized lag bolts or stainless steel #14 wood screws – These are used to secure the anchor base to the deck. The ones we sell and recommend are colored black to match the base but you can use whatever you prefer.



Pencil – Use this to mark your to length for cutting and for marking the center of the bottom of the post.



Ruler – You will use this to find and mark the center of the bottom of the post.

WHAT TYPE OF WOOD POST?

CEDAR/REDWOOD – A great material to use. Both are soft woods and have straight grain and are usually knot free. Always make sure there are no knots within 12" of the bottom of the post.

PRESSURE TREATED – This can include a number of softwood species from yellow pine, jack pine, hemlock to fir. They usually have more knots. **Make sure** there are no knots within at least 12" from the bottom of the post. Fir is not a recommended wood to use. It has a very tight pronounced vertical grain which is prone to splitting and the wood is very hard making it more difficult to drive the tube into uncut wood. See the Special Instructions.

IPE and other exotic hard woods – This is a beautiful wood for outdoor work. It's very durable and very long lasting. It's also known as Iron Wood – and for a good reason. It is so hard it has a Class A fire rating - the same as steel and concrete! You must pre drill all screw holes and sometimes even scrape bar soap or wax on the screw threads to prevent shearing (breaking) of the screw head. Use carbide tipped blades. Ipe and hard woods are not recommended unless you follow the Special Instructions carefully.

PREPARING THE DECK SURFACE

For wood frame decks be sure to add extra blocking (laminated 2x6 or 2x8 on edge) between the joists where ever you plan to have a post. This picture shows 4 - 2x8s on edge between the joists at the corners.









The anchor post connection is very strong. But it is useless if the anchor to deck connection is weak. The lag bolts or screws should penetrate deeply into solid wood and a solidly framed deck. For concrete or other hard surfaces, use proper fasteners.



ATTACHING ANCHOR TO POST

STEP:

-  Measure and cut the post to length. Use a Miter saw to get a clean 90 degree cut. **Make sure there are no knots within 12" of the bottom of the post.**
-  Mark the center of the post by drawing diagonal lines from opposing corners using your ruler and pencil.
-  Drill a small pilot hole about 2" deep straight down, not crooked or off line, using an 1/8" bit. This will help keep your hole saw going straight down and not drift off line if the wood grain catches it.
-  Drill a guide hole using your 1 1/4" diameter hole saw. Follow the pilot hole. Push as deep as the hole saw can go – about 1 3/4" deep.
-  Place the tube portion of the anchor in line with the guide hole cut. Make sure the base is square with the sides of the post.
Take the 3 lbs hammer and begin tapping it down ensuring that the tube follows the guide cut. A 3 lbs hammer has a larger head and a bit more weight so you will be able to make contact around the entire edge of the tube with each swing. Strike the center of the tube so that force is directed straight down and that you do not deform the anchor base. Continue hammering the tube down until the base contacts the post. Now tap the base all around to ensure it is perfectly flush with the post end.
-  Drill pilot holes with a 1/8" bit for the four inner lag bolts and then install the lags with washers tightly. You can also use lock/stop washers in addition if you like. Pilot holes must be just slightly smaller than the lag bolt for hardwood like Ipe or you may accidentally snap off the fastener head.
Use a ratchet or a drill with a ratchet bit and drive the lags into the pilot holes until tight. Do not over tighten so that the lags start to spin.

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS –

Optional - Recommended For Harder Wood Species ONLY

Do not use hard woods unless you are an experienced carpenter or professional. You will need a sharp hole saw, drill bits, forstner bit and preferably a drill press - or a very secure jig to hold the post and a steady strong hand.

After the first pass, replace the hole saw with a 1 1/4" Forstner bit or use a drill press and drill down 1 1/2" clearing the guide hole cut. Drilling by hand with a Forstner bit into hard wood is dangerous and should only be done by a professional.

Now use the hole saw with your hand drill and go as deep as you can. The bottom edge of the guide hole cut will now be about 3 1/4" from the bottom of the post.

The tube is 3 1/2" long so you will only have to drive the tube down 1/4" to 1/2" maximum into clean raw wood. This is still substantial penetration with exotic hard woods.

Now pre-drill the lag bolt pilot holes using a large enough drill bit so that only the threads of the bolt bite into the wood. Use a ratchet to tighten the bolts. This process makes it a lot easier to install if you are using hard woods. It also virtually eliminates the chance of the wood splitting.

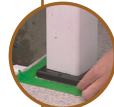
Hard woods are challenging to work with. However, if installed properly they also create the strongest post to anchor connections possible with the Titan Post Anchor. Keep in mind the tube is penetrating deep into the post and has immense surface area and friction - compared to a nail - so it will give you huge holding power.

ATTACHING POST AND ANCHOR TO DECK

Post Spacing: Post should be spaced no more than 6 feet apart.



Allow at least 2.5" - 3" of space between the anchor base and the outer edge of the deck. Check the post for level before you attach the post to the deck. Some decks are sloped to allow water to drain. See what level looks like and if necessary use galvanized or stainless steel washers as shims.



Place a galvanized washer under one side of the base of the anchor to bring the post to perfect level.



Drive the screws or lag bolts through the eight holes and into the deck surface. See our installation videos for an actual example. It's very easy to do.

Pat yourself on the back because this should be one very solid connection and the best part is – the post will stay dry and rot free for a lifetime and the anchor system is hidden deep within the post.

You're done my friend!

That is one solid post anchor connection. Now you can get ready to attach the post to the deck but first make sure you have a solid surface to anchor to. The ultimate strength of the connection is only as strong as the weakest link.

You're The Boss

My company is committed to excellence and bringing you the most innovative building products available. Send us your comments any time so we can continue to improve our service to you, our valued customers.

Kind regards,

Richard Bergman
Creator, Titan Post Anchor Systems™