

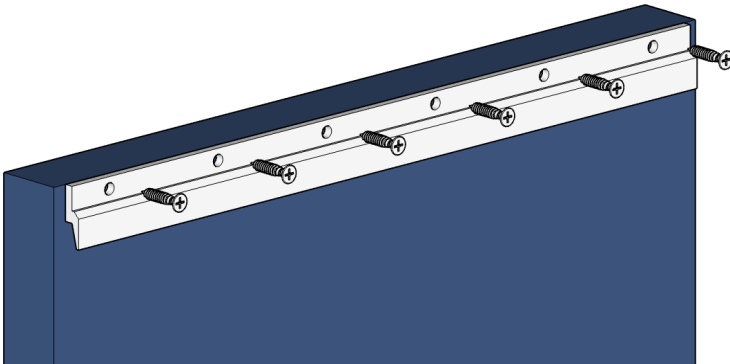


### METHOD 1: INSTALLING WITH FRENCH CLEAT BRACKETS

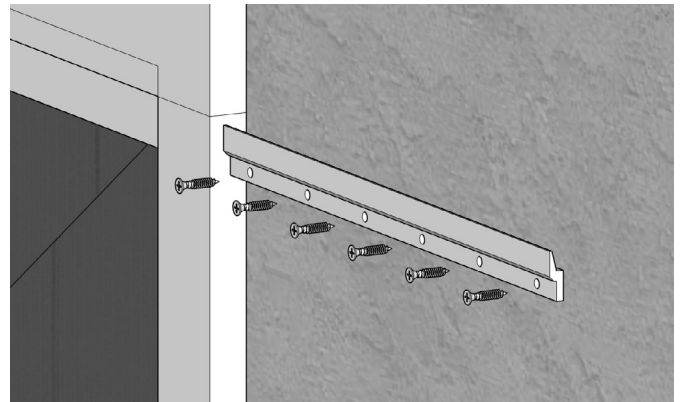
1. Attach french cleat bracket to shutters. French cleat brackets should be fastened to shutters with holes on top. Pre-drill, then fasten with screws. (Figure 1). Repeat on bottom of shutters with holes remaining on top. NOTE: Ensure bottom of French cleat bracket does not exceed shutter.
2. Attach French cleat brackets to structure. French cleat brackets should be fastened to structure with holes on bottom. Pre-drill, then fasten with screws. (Figure 2)
3. Slide shutter with French cleat brackets installed, over the top of the French cleat brackets that are installed on the structure. (Figure 3 Top and Figure 4 Bottom)

NOTE: True Fit PVC Shutters over 48" require additional 1 1/2" wide French cleat brackets installed on both sides of each shutter. Repeat same steps at center of shutter side rails if applicable.

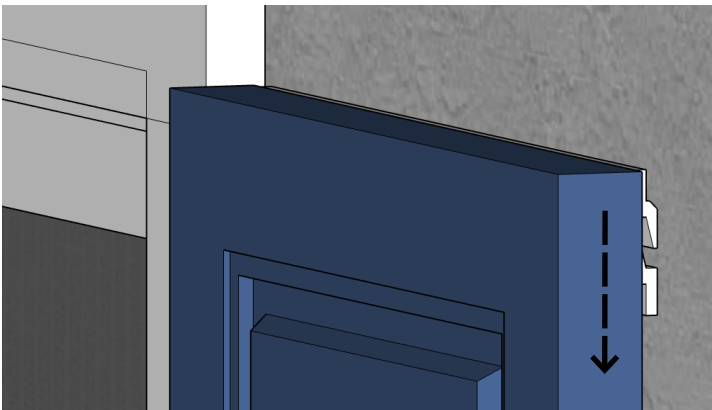
**FIGURE 1**



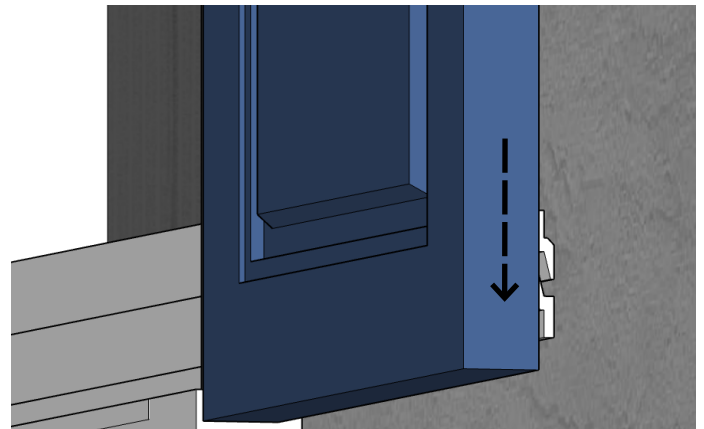
**FIGURE 2**



**FIGURE 3 (TOP)**

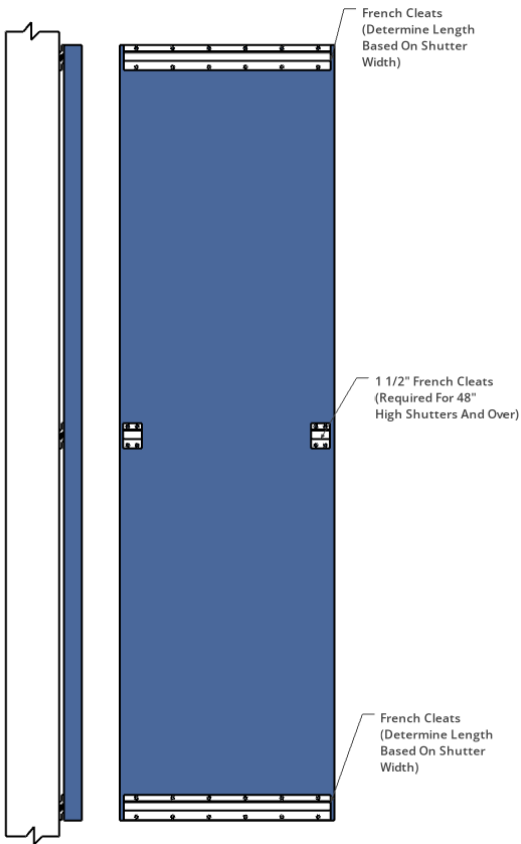


**FIGURE 4 (BOTTOM)**

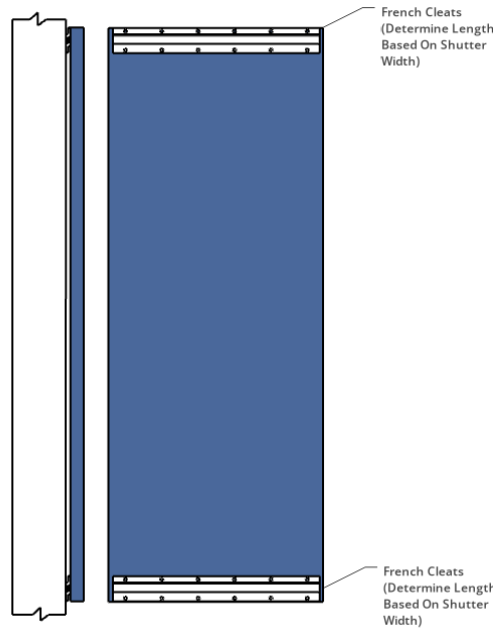




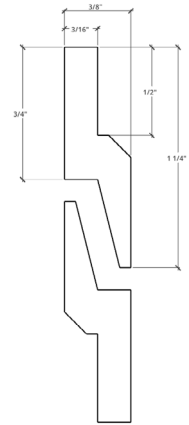
### FRENCH CLEAT EXAMPLE 48" HIGH AND OVER)



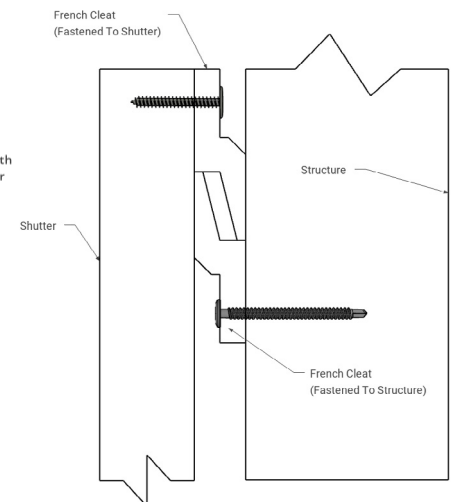
### FRENCH CLEAT EXAMPLE (UNDER 48" HIGH)



### FRENCH CLEAT DETAIL



### FRENCH CLEAT ATTACHMENT DETAIL



**NOTE:** Cleats may be inset from edges of shutters. Use closest size down French cleats. For example, if shutters are 18" wide, use closest size down 17 1/2" French cleats.

## IMPORTANT INSTALLATION NOTES

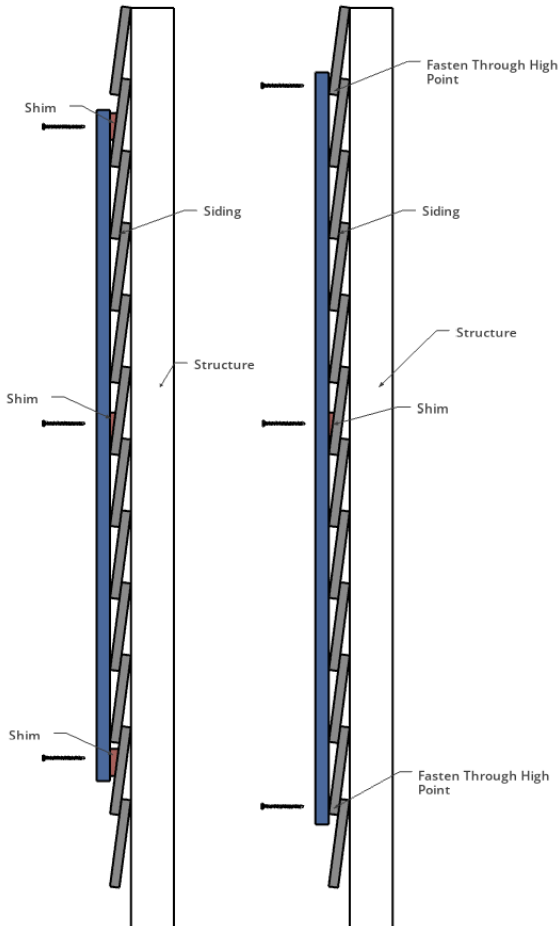
- French cleat brackets are intended for flat surfaces only and will not install properly on uneven siding, stone, or other uneven surfaces. If surface is uneven, install with hinges/pintels, or use screws through the front of the shutter into the structure. Touch up may be required if using alternate method of mechanically fastening shutters to structure with screws.
- Masonry surfaces require anchors for screws to properly secure the brackets to the structure. Anchors are not provided, but may be sourced through a local hardware supplier. Screw type and length may vary depending on install surface. Installer to determine screw type, length, and anchoring methods.
- French cleat brackets do not mechanically fasten the shutter to the structure and rely on the weight of the shutter and gravity to hold the shutters in place, similar. This method provides the most concealed where fasteners are not visible with no touch up required.
- Instructions are intended to be general in nature. Applications, techniques, and requirements may vary.
- Use discretion when penetrating surfaces.
- PVC may become more brittle in cold temperatures. Exercise caution when pre-drilling.
- PVC is non-structural and should not be installed with hinges. PVC shutters must be 'fixed mounted'.
- Always store PVC shutters laying flat and away from excessive heat build-up.
- Do not install inside of openings where shutters are not allowed space to expand/contract.



#### METHOD 2: INSTALLING WITH SCREWS (SCREWS NOT PROVIDED)

1. Place shutters against structure and mark holes where shutters will be installed with screws. If installing on uneven siding, be sure to mark where the higher part of the siding is located. If shutter overhang is excessive, shims should be used if necessary to create a level surface at top and bottom of shutter (See example diagram).
2. Pre-drill holes through shutter into structure.
3. Fasten shutters with screws. Do not to over-tighten.

#### UNEVEN SIDING EXAMPLES



#### IMPORTANT INSTALLATION NOTES

- Masonry surfaces require anchors for screws to properly secure the shutters to the structure. Anchors are not provided, but may be sourced through a local hardware supplier. Screw type and length may vary depending on install surface. Installer to determine screw type, length, and anchoring methods.
- Screw heads may be countersunk, patched, and touched up if desired, or screw heads may be left without touch up at customer's/installer's discretion.
- Instructions are intended to be general in nature. Applications, techniques, and requirements may vary.
- Use discretion when penetrating surfaces.
- PVC may become more brittle in cold temperatures. Exercise caution when pre-drilling.
- PVC is non-structural and should not be installed with hinges. PVC shutters must be 'fixed mounted' only.
- Always store PVC shutters laying flat and away from excessive heat build-up.
- Do not install inside of openings where shutters are not allowed space to expand/contract.

#### GENERAL SHUTTER INSTALLATION DISCLAIMER

Shutters are a decorative building product used in a wide variety of applications where techniques, methods, fasteners, surfaces, and finishes vary. This installation guide is intended to be general in nature. Installers should use judgement and discretion when installing all decorative building products including shutters.



**What type of paint is recommended?**

100% acrylic-latex paint is generally recommended. Primer may be required. Follow paint manufacturer’s recommendations.

**What prep work is required prior to painting?**

Thoroughly clean the surface of the shutter prior to painting, removing any dust, debris, or residues.

**Is some roughness in the PVC normal?**

Yes, PVC shutters are rougher in the milled areas. The rough areas are commonly referred to as ‘open cell’ PVC. This is normal for all milled PVC products. To minimize roughness, use 220-320 grit sand paper. This will not eliminate the roughness completely but does reduce the visible open cell material. Painting further reduces visibility. Raised panel and louver shutters have roughness in the panels/louvers, sides, top, and bottom. All shutters include roughness in the top, bottom, and sides.

**What is the best method for applying paint?**

Shutters may be painted with a sprayer, brush, or rollers. Sprayers generally provide the most consistent finish and allow paint to fill all crevices and details. Paint may take 3-4 days to fully cure. Dry in a humidity controlled environment.

**Can I paint PVC dark colors?**

Dark colors present risks due to the nature of PVC that can cause warping and other disformation. Discretion is strongly advised. Paints have a ‘LRV’ (Light Reflective Value) which measures the amount of light that a color reflects. For example, a paint with a 55 LRV reflects 55% of light. PVC is generally recommended to be painted in colors that have an LRV greater than 55. If the LRV is less than 55, the color is not generally recommended. However, some paint manufacturers including Sherwin William and Benjamin Moore offer special ‘vinyl safe’ paints that are solar reflective. Failure to use proper solar reflective paint may result in warping, and even if solar reflective paint is use, failure may occur if the surface temperature on the shutter reaches 140 degrees or higher.

COLOR RANGE	COLOR SECTION CRITERIA	PAINT TYPE
LIGHT	MUST HAVE LRV VALUE > 55	EXTERIOR 100% ACRYLIC LATEX
MEDIUM	ONLY USE COLORS FROM PAINT MANUFACTURER APPROVED COLOR LIST FOR PVC PRODUCTS	EXTERIOR PVC-SAFE 100% ACRYLIC LATEX
DARK	ONLY USE SOLAR REFLECTIVE PAINTS. NOTE: NO WARRANTY ON DARK COLORS	EXTERIOR 100% ACRYLIC LATEX WITH SOLAR REFLECTIVE TECHNOLOGY

**DARK COLOR  
SELECTION GUIDE**



**EKENA**  
MILLWORK

# True Fit PVC Shutters

## Dark Color Notice

PVC is a thermoplastic material which becomes pliable at elevated temperatures. Dark-colored shutters absorb more heat, especially when exposed to direct sunlight. This increased heat absorption due to dark color paint can cause the shutter's surface to reach temperatures exceeding 140 degrees Fahrenheit, at which point the material may distort. To ensure the longevity and performance of True Fit PVC shutters, please consider the following:

### **Discretion in Color Choice**

- Caution is advised when selecting dark-colored shutters. Lighter colors reflect more sunlight and are less likely to reach surface temperatures that may cause warping.
- Factory painted black shutters are painted with a special heat reflective paint to limit the risk of warping. However, depending on the climate and installation area, black shutter surfaces may be subject to reaching 140 degrees Fahrenheit. Other factory painted dark colors such as Starless Night Blue, a Shadow Mountain and others may be subject to reaching 140 degrees Fahrenheit.

### **Placement Considerations**

- Avoid installing dark colors in areas that receive the most direct sunlight such as west-facing porches.
- Be mindful of the climate in your area. Hot climates exacerbate the risk of warping if painted a dark color.

### **Warranty Exclusions**

- Warping or deformation of shutters caused by exposure to high temperatures where shutter surfaces can reach 140 degrees is not covered under warranty.
- Damage resulting from the installation of dark-colored shutters in areas with intense, direct sunlight, is excluded from warranty coverage.

### **Customer Responsibility**

- It is the customer's responsibility to assess the suitability of PVC shutters for their specific installation conditions. PVC is an excellent choice for its rot resistance, durability, authentic appearance, customization, and more. However, PVC is known throughout the industry for its pliability when exposed to intense heat.

### **Consider Endura-Core Composite Shutters**

- In addition to PVC, Ekena Millwork manufactures a thermally stable composite shutter that is less susceptible to heat-borne dis-formation and may also be used for hinged/functional applications or fixed applications. Consider Ekena Millwork's Endura-Core shutters if using in an area prone to excessive heat or for hinged/functional installations.