

Decorative Wood Shutter Installation Instructions With the StyleCraft™ Direct Mount Kit

The StyleCraft™ direct mount kit is designed for installing shutters on lap siding, wood, or composite surface. It may also work with other surfaces by installing anchors (sold separately) for the supplied screws. Using the direct mount kit ensures that you will have the necessary gap between the mounting surface and the exterior shutter so moisture can escape from behind the shutter. Without this gap moisture will be trapped behind the shutter, causing it to decay.

Nearly all windows are installed with a wooden stud frame which is a great surface for anchoring your wood shutters to. The side of the shutter that is closest to the window should be positioned over this wood frame to give it stability. The outboard side (the side away from the window) may or may not be positioned over a wall stud. If there is no stud to hold the outboard side securely, wall anchors should be installed to hold the wooden shutter securely against the wall.

Required Materials

1. [StyleCraft™ Direct Mount Kit](#)
2. 220 grit or finer sand paper
3. Philips screwdriver or power screw gun with philips attachment
4. Tape measure
5. Power drill and assorted drill bits
6. Hammer
7. Scratch awl or nail
8. Pencil
9. Wall anchors (optional in some cases)
10. Oil-based primer
11. Latex-based exterior paint
12. Outdoor or [all-purpose caulk](#)
13. Elmer's wood filler

Exterior Wood Shutter Installation

1. First of all, ensure you have the correct pair of shutters for the intended window and mark the back so you know front from back when you are working with the shutters. If necessary, also mark the left and the right shutter panel.
2. Before painting, drill the pilot holes for the screws. The pilot holes should be centered within each side stile and 3" from the top and bottom of the shutter. If the shutter is over 48" in height, you will also need to drill in the center of the side stile half way between these points (or in the center of the mid rail, if your shutter has one). Use a 1/8" drill bit and drill all the way through the stiles.

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3. Next, use a 3/8" drill bit and bore out the front of the shutter to countersink the screws. Bore out the hole to 1/2" deep only, not all the way through.
4. Hold the shutter against the wall in its intended position. The shutter should be placed with a 1/4" gap between the shutter and the window frame to allow for expansion and contraction of the different materials.
5. The nylon stand-off pads will need to be installed on the highest points that come into contact with the shutter. With lap siding, this will typically be the bottom of each lap. Mark the shutter where it comes in contact with the surface at 3 points on each side stile (see figure 1) for later installation of the stand-off pads. Note that the pads must be offset slightly from the screw holes.

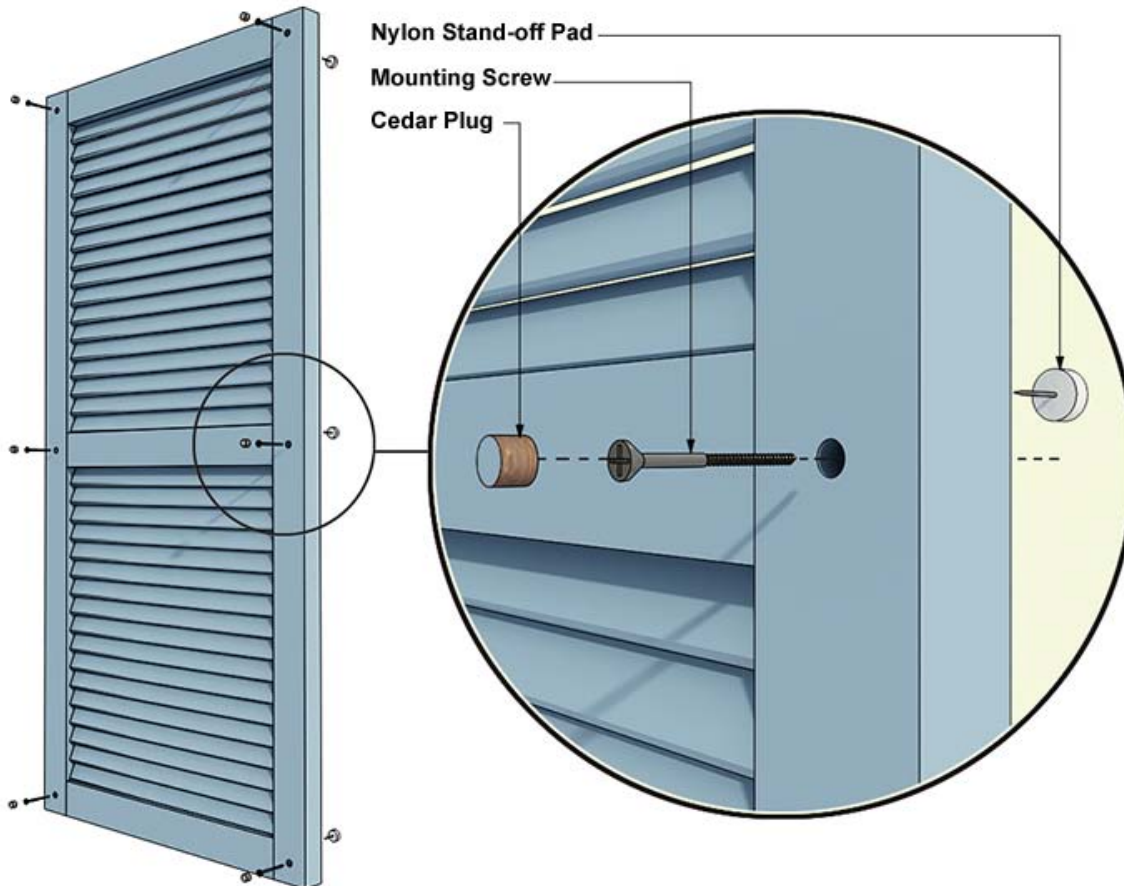


Figure 1 – Direct Mount Kit Installation

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6. With the shutter held in place, use a scratch awl or a long nail and a hammer to mark the drill location on the mounting surface by penetrating the pilot holes you drilled in step 2.
7. Take the shutter down carefully.
8. On the mounting surface, drill the window side of the exterior wall first. With a 7/64" drill bit, drill the holes in the mounting surface to a depth of about 1 1/2".
9. Now drill the marked locations on the outboard side of the mounting surface. If you feel the drill punch through the surface, you will need to install a wall anchor in each location that doesn't have a mounting stud to secure the shutter. Use the size of drill bit specific to your wall anchor to bore the hole to the correct size. Use a little bit of outdoor or all-purpose caulk on the outside of the anchor to weatherproof before pressing the anchor into the wall.
10. Now that you have finished preparing the mounting surface, you must prepare the shutters for mounting. Use the scratch awl or nail to mark the back of the shutter side stiles in the center at each of the 6 locations you marked in step 5. You will no longer be able to see the pencil markings after you prime the shutters, so do not skip this step.
11. If you bought shutters that were factory primed, skip to step 14. Sand the shutter surface to remove any loose fibers or sharp edges and inspect the shutter for marks and abrasions. If necessary, fill the wood shutter with Elmer's wood filler.
12. Clean off any dust by blowing the shutter with dry compressed air or with a dry tack cloth.
13. Apply the primer to the shutter surface. We recommend using an oil-based primer tinted as close to the final color as possible and to use a spray system to apply the primer. Apply 2 coats, cover the shutter thoroughly, and treat all 6 sides of the shutter with an equal amount.
14. Apply primer to the cedar plugs to weatherproof them. Cover them completely with primer.
15. If you are installing a top cap (recommended) that is galvanized, apply primer to both the outside and inside of the cap to ensure maximum weather protection. Ensure that the top cap is fully covered with primer. If you are installing a copper shutter cap, you may skip priming and painting the top cap.
16. After the primer has dried, turn the shutters face down and nail on the stand-off pads at the locations you marked in step 10.
17. Paint the shutters. We recommend using a latex-based paint with a spray system. The exterior wood shutter should be covered with 2 coats of paint on all 6 sides. Do not neglect to paint the back of the shutters. Be sure to apply paint over the nylon stand-off pads and to paint the tops (the wider end) of the cedar plugs.
18. If you are installing a galvanized top cap, paint it on all sides with 2 coats. If you are installing a copper top cap, you may skip this step as it is acceptable to leave copper unfinished. When the paint has dried thoroughly on the shutters and top cap, use a bead of all-purpose adhesive caulk on the top of the shutter and 2 beads along the top edge of each side stile in an H pattern. Put a little extra caulk over the top of the top shutter joints to ensure they are sealed. Line up the top cap with the edges of the shutter and press it firmly into place. Wipe any excess caulk from the assembly. Repeat this step for the other shutter.

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19. After the paint and caulk have dried, hold the shutter next to the mounting surface and starting at the top mounting hole next to the window, turn in the first screw but do not tighten completely. If using a power screw gun, turn down the rotation speed to avoid spinouts.
20. Next, put the screw in the bottom window side position and screw in tightly. Install the remaining screws and tighten. Don't forget to tighten the top window side screw.
21. One mounting hole at a time, put a small bead of all purpose caulk inside of the mounting hole. Using a rubber mallet (or a hammer and a piece of corrugated cardboard to cover the surface of the plug), gently tap a cedar plug into the hole until it is flush with the outer shutter surface. Wipe off any excess caulk using a soft cloth. Repeat this step for each of the mounting holes.
22. If the cedar plugs were marred in the process of installing or if there is a noticeable gap, fill and paint them as necessary.