

Temporary Columns by Finn Home Inspectors

Temporary columns are the type that have a screw on the end to adjust length. Some are one piece, most are adjustable. They are hollow inside and typically have a flimsy spreader plate (spreader plates are steel plates on the top and bottom, intended to spread the load on the beam so the wood does not crush).

Many are not rated for the weight of the house they are supposed to support. We also find many that have rusted through at the bottom. It is not uncommon to find them not only rusted through but fallen over.

We recommend replacing these columns with concrete filled steel columns or properly sized pressure treated columns, at least 6X6 inch.

Below Screw column



Below rusted through column



Referred by some as a Springfield spreader plate, it is thick and as wide as the beam, twice as long as wide. it will not bend, it spreads the load well. Holes are to secure the plate to the beam which is required.

An installed Springfield plate, note spans entire width of main beam.

Inadequate spreader plate on top of a screw column, the plate is crushing into the main beam, a Failure.