

# Fast Track Installation

#### - Apartment Complex

An apartment complex manager in Georgia wanted to improve the appearance of a building he owned overlooking a downtown area. The 30-year-old building was in a desirable area, in good condition on the inside but lacked visual appeal and needed to be freshened up on the outside.

Kole Parks, who owns and, manages over 70 commercial and residential properties in the area decided to paint the dull grey exterior of the 12-unit apartment building an attractive bright white color. He also determined that he should entirely screen in the six perimeter apartments from floor to ceiling to improve the look of the building. He also wanted to cover the rather bland concrete floor with an attractive epoxy floor covering, install new doors leading from each new screen porch to the common areas of the building and paint the exterior doors black and the aluminum support columns and trim green.

Parks' uncle had used FASTtrack™ system for an earlier project and suggested he research it online. FASTtrack™ is a two-part extruded aluminum porch screening system for residential and commercial screen porches designed for framing and structural elements. FASTtrack™ is available from Screen Tight™, a company headquartered in Georgetown, SC.

Impressed by what he read on the internet, the way the system looked on his uncle's property and the versatility it provided, Parks decided it would be a perfect fit for his remodeling project. The features that most attracted him was that it could be installed from either the inside or outside of the porch and features 1-inch by 2-inch self-mating channels that completely hide the clip fasteners that attach to the frame for a clean and elegant look.

"My apartment building is three stories tall and nearly 45 feet high,"



Apartment owner Kole Parks wanted to improve the appearance of this apartment building he owns overlooking a downtown area. The 30-year-old building was in a desirable area, in good condition on the inside but lacked visual appeal and needed to be freshened up on the outside.



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After using the FASTtrack™ from Screen Tight, the apartment building has a new fresh look that the tenants love. The system features 1-inch by 2-inch self-mating channels that completely hide the clip fasteners for a clean and elegant look. FASTtrack™ was installed on six of the 12 units.

Parks said. "To install the screen for the six porches from the outside would have been almost impossible for us to do. Thanks to the FASTtrack<sup>TM</sup> system the porches were easy to screen. We completed screened in the six porches in one day versus the weeks it would have taken to screen the porch from the outside."

To start the project, Parks ordered the six FASTtrack™ systems directly from Screen Tight™, purchased six doors from his local hardware store to access the common areas in the building and gathered the tools he needed for construction including a chop saw, a hilti gun, flat spline, screwdriver, drill and rubber mallet.

#### Installation Described

The two-part FASTtrack™ system includes special 1-inch by 2-inch self-mating extruded channels and molded clips that snap together to 2-inch by 2-inch vertical posts or horizontal rails. Also included are pickets, picket adapters and single and double clips.

Parks and his brother, who helped with the remodeling, selected 12-foot high power cooled extruded white channels. They marked each clip position at intervals of about 10-inches around the frame of the porch and then cut the 12-foot FASTtrack™ channels to length. Next, they used a rubber mallet to snap the channels over the clips, installed the 12-foot tall vertical posts and then the horizontal railing system. Finally, they rolled the screen into grooves on the interior of the porch, fully encasing each 12-foot by 32-foot enclosure. Each time they started at the top, and worked their way down the sides and bottom of each section.



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Parks and his brother were pleased with how the system was designed, how easily it was to put in and would recommend it to people wanting to install a screen porch without the hassles of traditional systems.

"Once the first couple of posts went up, it got a lot easier to follow the same pattern and get the others in," Parks said. "The spline went very smoothly and the screen fit easily inside the grooves of the channels. FASTtrack™ is a great product and we would definitely use it again in the future."

Since the FASTtrack<sup>™</sup> system has been installed there have not been any problems with the system.

"The tenants really love their porches and we have been able to charge \$25 to \$50 more for the units with screen porches," Parks said. "It looks so clean and professional. People always comment on the improved look and aesthetic appeal of the building."

The additional benefit to Parks is the low maintenance the system requires after it is installed.

"You never have to paint it," Parks said. "That was the biggest bonus for me. The payoff will be down the road. I didn't need to use a ladder to install the system and it was relatively easy to install. Now I have a maintenance free porch system that has already added value to my property and truly looks great."



Close-up of the FASTtrack™ System from Screen Tight.

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