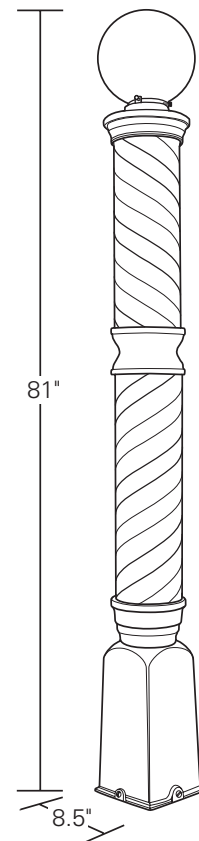


STRIPED BARBER POLE

This salvaged barber pole is a somewhat unique item, and is featured in our Bridgehampton Showroom. Made from a porcelain baked enamel over metal, this easily recognizable universal symbol rose out of the medical tradition of blood-letting started in the Middle Ages. Barbers would not only cut hair, but were also surgeons who had their own guild. The practice of bloodletting involved the use of a long staff which the patient would grasp. This would cause veins in the arm to be more pronounced, and therefore more easily accessible. After a successful operation, blood-soaked linens used during the procedure as bandages would be hung from the staff and placed outside the home as a formal announcement of the barber surgeon's services. Wind would often twirl the bandages around the pole, causing a spiral pattern. It is this pattern that we see on modern-day barber poles such as this one. The ball at the top of the pole evolved from the form of a basin, which were used to catch blood and hold leeches. The colors were always symbolic throughout the evolution of this symbol. Red represented blood, white the bandages, and blue the veins.



REF# UA15 SV \$4,500

**SOLD**

\*Please contact our Bridgehampton Showroom for more information.