

Technical Information about Recycled Plastic Artificial Lumber

Expansion:

- The lower the temperature during installation, the more the artificial lumber planks or posts may expand.
- British Recycled Plastic has an average linear expansion of 0.109mm/m/°C.
- It is vital to calculate the maximum expansion/contraction of the boards in order to establish correct expansion/ contraction gaps.
- Calculation example: Installation of 3.1m decking at a temp of 15°C Max.
- Temperature expected 40°C
- Temperature at Installation 15°C
- Temperature difference 25°C
- Interval = 0.109mm/m/°C.
- Calculation: $0.109\text{mm} \times 3.1\text{m} \times 25^\circ\text{C} = 8.44\text{mm}$

Flexibility:

- Recycled plastic is more flexible than wood or metal.
- All product and structure designs facilitate this technical characteristic (e.g. maximum distance between fence posts), furthermore, all of our products are supplied with installation or fabrication recommendations.

Material Structure:

- British Recycled Plastic planks and posts bear a non-porous surface resembling timber grain and a honeycomb core. The internal air pockets (caused by evaporation of surface moisture from the ground waste plastic feedstock) may be visible when the end of the profile is cut.

Bolts and Screws:

- We recommend that all fixings are made from stainless steel/brass or are plated, to retain the integrity, long life, rot free, maintenance free, quality of the final product.
- When bolting or screwing profiles together, the pilot hole must be larger than the bolt.
- Elongated slots are recommended to facilitate temperature related expansion/contraction of the material, particularly on runs of fencing.

Impact:

- Use of a ram or protective sleeve is recommended if profiles are hammered mechanically into the ground – it will prevent potential damage to the product.

Storage:

- Direct sunlight may affect profile alignment and cause profile distortion.
- To prevent planks and posts bowing, profiles should be stored on a flat surface, strapped in batches.