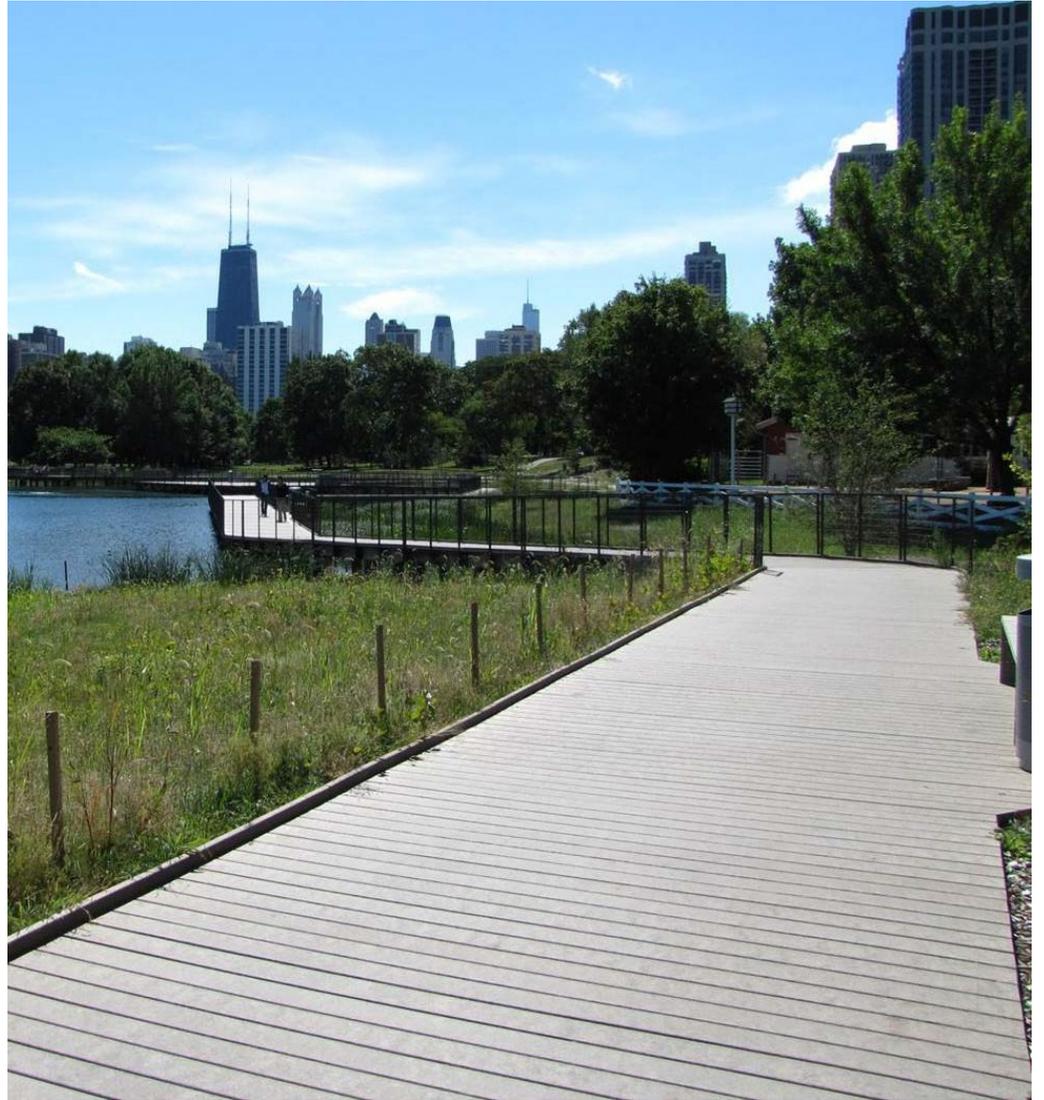


# Recycled HDPE Plastic Lumber



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## Features and Applications

Performance features of recycled HDPE plastic lumber include:

- Low maintenance
- Long life expectancy
- Various lengths
- No rotting
- No splintering
- No painting or staining
- Cuts, drills, and secures just like wood
- Available in multiple profiles
- Available in a variety of colors
- Textured surfaces
- Continuous piece construction
- Environmentally friendly
- Resistant to marine borers, termites, fungus, salt, and oils

Recycled HDPE plastic lumber has been used for many unique applications. Some of the more common uses have been benches, outdoor furniture, decking, docks, boardwalks, parking curbs, trim work, signs, and playground equipment.

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## Sample Installation Considerations (refer to manufacturer's guidelines)

- 1. Structural Ability:** Recycled HDPE plastic lumber is not recommended for structural use; therefore, the substructure must be constructed of another structural grade material. Due to its increased flexibility (as compared to wood), recycled HDPE plastic lumber requires more support. Refer to manufacturer's span tables to determine support requirements based on live load and ambient temperature.
- 2. Expansion/Contraction:** Recycled HDPE plastic lumber expands and contracts along its length. A 10' (3.048m) length will expand and contract up to 3/8" (1cm). Therefore, it should be run along the shortest length with the joists running the long direction. Also, lighter colors do not heat up as much in sunlight and are therefore preferable when installing in a sunny location.
- 3. Fastening:** To withstand the expansion and contraction as well as to maintain a long-lasting, beautiful looking deck, stainless steel deck screws should be used. Each deck board should be fastened with at least two screws per joist, at least 3/4" (2cm) from the edge or end of the board. Screws must be pre-drilled and should be counter-sunk.

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Coating the screws with a lubricant, such as a silicone caulk, or soap will ease installation. The best fastening solution allows for thermal expansion/contraction.

- 4. Butt Joints:** When butting recycled HDPE plastic lumber against any wall, fixed surface, or other boards (if necessary), they should be securely fastened to the nailer or double joist with a gap allowing for expansion. The size of gap should be determined based on weather conditions at the time of installation—the closer the temperature is to the usual high temperature for the year, the smaller the gap. The project should be designed to minimize the butt joints. However, in the event that joints are required, a double joist underneath the butt joint should be used. Boards should be securely fastened with a row of screws on each side of the joint 3/4" (2cm) from end of the board. Always keep deck boards out 3/8" (1cm) from permanent structure.
- 5. Rip Cutting:** Rip cutting is not recommended on any plastic lumber. In the event that rip cutting is needed, please refer to the manufacturer's guidelines.