


Frequently Asked Questions



Q. What is EVOLVE® Dimensional high-density plastic lumber?

A: EVOLVE Dimensional lumber is composed of a blend of recycled pre-consumer/post-consumer and virgin (HDPE) high-density polyethylene (plastics code ) . It is a solid, non-hollow foamed plastic with no fillers.

Q. What applications would you use EVOLVE Dimensional lumber?

A: EVOLVE® Dimensional lumber is used in many applications as a replacement for wood. It has been used in decks and dock applications since the 1970's. The Agriculture Industry uses the material for manure spreaders, animal shelters, fencing, etc. Over the past decade, outdoor furniture manufacturers have been switching over to plastic from wood for Adirondack chairs, benches and tables.

Q. How much does EVOLVE Dimensional lumber weigh?

A: EVOLVE® Dimensional lumber is comparable in weight to a good hardwood such as oak.

Maintenance

Q. How long will EVOLVE Dimensional lumber last?

A: EVOLVE Dimensional high-density plastic lumber is still going strong after over twenty years of accelerated weather testing. We have not seen the total life span of the product to date. We do have product installed on boat docks since 1976 with no sign of degradation.

Q. How do I take care of my plastic lumber?

A. Washing EVOLVE plastic lumber with a hose or a mop is about all that is needed under normal circumstances. You can use a mixture of bleach and water (1 part bleach to 10 parts water) to clean stubborn stains on the material. If you happen to have your deck in an area with many sap trees, you can also use a power washer on it as needed. We are one of the few deck materials that you can use a power washer on without causing damage.

Q. Will an EVOLVE deck or dock be slippery when wet?

A. EVOLVE high density plastic lumber is no more slippery than painted or sealed wood when wet. A natural film, which cannot be seen or felt, is left on the surface of the material after manufacturing. Sunlight will normally "burn off" this film in a few weeks. Our material has been tested, and passes strict ADA requirements for ramps.

Q. Can static electricity be generated when walking across the deck floor?

A. Yes. In some instances, deck owners have reported generating static electricity when walking across their decks. The static electricity created, if any, is similar to static electricity being created when walking on carpeting.

Q. Is Evolve impervious to insects?

A: Yes. Our material is solid and insects, termites, bees, and other small creatures, will not be able to bore into the material.

Q: What do I need to know about building an EVOLVE® deck or dock?

A: Virtually any deck, dock, or porch design can be built using EVOLVE® plastic lumber. While EVOLVE® is much like working with traditional wood materials, some simple construction modifications will eliminate any complications caused by expansion and contraction. An installation guide is available from our website, and should be reviewed prior to construction.

Q: Will EVOLVE® plastic decking expand or contract with heat changes?

A: Yes. EVOLVE® plastic lumber does expand and contract along its length, so it is very important to follow our installation guidelines. It is recommended that the deck boards should not exceed 16' in length, and be kept as short as possible to reduce the expansion and contraction. Always try to avoid using butt joints. If unavoidable, butt joints must fall on a joist and you will need to use a feature strip to cover the expansion and contraction at that joint.

Q: What tools do I use when working with EVOLVE® plastic lumber?

A: Standard woodworking tools can be used. You may have to use a lower speed with your router or

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planer/jointer to prevent “gumming up” of the router bit or the planer/jointer knives. Carbide tipped bits and blades are recommended. Always use tools according to manufacturer’s instructions, and wear protective clothing and safety glasses for your safety.

Q. Why types of fastening options can I choose for the deck?

A: Typically, you would choose stainless steel screws for face screwing the product or hidden clips.

Q: Will I have to pre-drill EVOLVE® decking?

A: No, it is not required. However, material may mushroom around the screw heads. This can be tapped down to partially cover the screw heads, or left as is. Decking screws designed for composites and plastic decking boards, will usually not mushroom.

Q. Can EVOLVE® plastic lumber be used for structural applications?

A. No. While EVOLVE® high density plastic lumber is virtually indestructible and impervious to deterioration, it doesn’t have the same stiffness of wood lumber. Therefore, it is not intended for use as a column, beam, joist, stringer, stud or other primary load-bearing member. If you are looking for a structural plastic, try our TRIMAX® Structural Lumber.

Q. Can EVOLVE® plastic lumber be used for fascia and trim?

A: Yes. EVOLVE® can be manufactured in a wide range of profiles for specialty trim work and other applications. Use EVOLVE® to cover posts and create specialty rail features to give your deck a coordinated, finished look.

Q: Do you have plastic railing available?

A: Yes, there are several options available to coordinate with your deck or other project. Please contact RENEW® Plastics customer service at 800-666-5207.

Q: What is the proper joist span to use when constructing a deck?

A: EVOLVE® high density plastic lumber should be put on 16” joist centers when using the 1” x 5 1/2” Eased Edge or Groove and Groove and 1” x 6” Tongue and Groove material. The joists should be of the highest quality due to the longevity of the plastic lumber. We recommend using a high quality kiln dried wood product, galvanized steel, or our very own TRIMAX® Structural Lumber for your substructure to prevent warping and bowing. Go to www.renewplastics.com to get our EVOLVE® Deck Design and Installation Guide.

Decking thickness	Angle of Decking		
	90°	45°	60°
¾”	12”	8”	6”
1”	16”	11”	8”
1½”	24”	14”	10”

Q: Is there anything special to consider when building the substructure?

A: Yes. We recommend installing wind bracing on a 45° angle to the joists, at 4’ to 6’ intervals, especially on larger decks. This should prevent your substructure from twisting if weather conditions abuse your deck. You can also use traditional blocking methods for your joist substructure.

Q: How do I install the tongue and groove product?

A: You install it like hardwood flooring. You can blind screw through the tongue of each deck board to get a fastener-less look on the deck surface or you can use one of our specially designed stainless steel clips. Go to www.renewplastics.com to get our EVOLVE® Deck Design and Installation Guide.

Q. Will my deck floor be watertight when using the tongue and groove boards?

A. No. Water will seep through the T&G joints. If you require a dry area under the deck, you may want to consider a product like **Zip-UP Underdeck®** (<http://quietwalk.com/zipup-ceiling-and-decking/zud-features.html>), which has been used with our product before. Please call customer service at 800-666-5207

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for pricing and availability.

Q: Can I cut notches into the product?

A: Yes, but 90-degree cuts should not be used. You should always use radius corner cuts when notching EVOLVE® high-density plastic lumber, as you would with any other hard surface material. Go to www.renewplastics.com to get our EVOLVE® Deck Design and Installation Guide. You do not want to notch posts for railing. Doing so, weakens the post and doesn't give you the safety protection the rail is designed for.

Q. Do you have any minimum order requirements?

A. Yes. Please see the [Profile Chart](#) for minimum order quantities on www.renewplastics.com.

Colors and Texture

Q. What standard decking colors are available in inventory from your distributors?

A. With our new decking product, [REVOLVE Engineered Composite](#), hitting the market a couple of years ago, most of our distributors are stocking that product. Some of our larger distributors still do carry EVOLVE in stock. EVOLVE is a make to order product.

Q. Are the EVOLVE plastic lumber boards colored throughout?

A. Yes, our product is a homogeneous blend, so the color is solid throughout even when cut or routed.

Q. Will my EVOLVE plastic lumber boards have consistent color and texture?

A. We make every effort to maintain color consistency. However, due to utilizing recycled materials, and the standard allowable variances in the color we purchase, shade variations can occur in our lumber. The texture may be slightly different from profile to profile due to the manufacturing process.

Q. Can an EVOLVE deck be stained or painted?

A. EVOLVE was designed to eliminate the need for such work. Stain or paint, if applied to the boards, will not penetrate the surface because the product does not absorb moisture. Therefore, stains or paints will tend to flake off the surface of the material over time.

Q. Will EVOLVE plastic lumber fade over time?

A. All of our EVOLVE high density plastic lumber has ultra-violet (UV) stabilizers added to help protect the color and the integrity of the HDPE.