



Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What is TRIMAX® Structural Lumber?

A. TRIMAX is composed of a patented blend of recycled pre-consumer/post-consumer and virgin (HDPE) high density polyethylene (plastics code ) and a structural strengthener. It is uniquely suited for outdoor applications that require superior strength, durability and resistance to even the most extreme weather conditions. There are no wood fillers used in our products.

Q. Is TRIMAX® Structural Lumber truly structural?

A. TRIMAX Structural Lumber is a structural product. It is not an exact replacement for pressure treated lumber. The reason is the material is not as stiff as regular pressure treated lumber. The material can be used for joists, girders and posts, but precautions must be considered when completing the design.

Q. Does TRIMAX Structural Lumber span as far as pressure treated lumber?

A: The typical answer is "no", it doesn't span as far, but substitutions can be made to compensate for this. For instance, if you are spanning a 2x6 in wood 7'-0" for a residential span, to do the same thing in TRIMAX, a 2x8 might need to be utilized instead of a 2x6. Please contact customer service at 800-666-5207 for span charts for spans exact to your condition.

Q. Can you cut and drill TRIMAX Structural Lumber as you would pressure treated?

A. TRIMAX cuts and drills like pressure treated, only better. You do not have knots or cracks to work around and after cutting, virtually no sanding is needed to get a smooth edge.

Q. Can you rip TRIMAX Structural Lumber down the center?

A. Yes you can, but you will not maintain the structural value. Also, the product will curl on you which might make it unsafe to cut. The best rule of thumb is, if you need a 2x4, buy a 2x4. Do not buy a 2x8 and try to rip it down the middle into (2) 2x4's.

Q. Is TRIMAX approved by my local building codes?

A. Currently, International Code Council is in the process of reviewing TRIMAX Structural Lumber. TRIMAX is the first material of its kind so approval of this takes some extra time. Another way to get your local codes to approve the product is to have a registered engineer stamp and seal the drawings. This removes the liability from the building codes and places it with the engineer. We have plenty of data online for the engineer to review to feel more than comfortable to stamp and seal drawings utilizing the TRIMAX Structural Lumber.

Q. Can you fabricate stair stringers out of TRIMAX Structural Lumber?

A. Yes, you can. Typically 2x12's are used to cut stair stringers. When you notch the 2x12, some strength is lost. In order to compensate, many contractors will install a 2x6 on the inside of each of the stair stringers to assist in supporting the weight. Please make sure to follow all span tables when designing a stair system. Contact customer service at 800-666-5207 for information regarding span charts.

Q. Can you install TRIMAX in water or soil?

A. Yes, you can. All of RENEW Plastics products are submersible in water or soil, as the material will not break down due moisture. A number of boardwalks have been constructed over the years with our TRIMAX product and those applications have the material either submerged in the soil or water.

Q. Can you use TRIMAX around salt water?

A. Yes, you can. Salt water or salt in the area in coastal areas, will not impact TRIMAX product. Our products have been installed on many coastal applications such as fenders, boardwalks, boat docks, etc.