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Technical Data Trimax Structural Lumber

DESCRIPTION

Trimax's Structural Lumber is a high-performance construction material consisting of a patented formula of recycled plastic, fiberglass, and selective additives. The plastic raw material utilized in Structural Lumber is derived from post-consumer bottle waste such as milk and detergent bottles. This material is compounded into a consistent, reinforced plastic timber product using reactive compatibilizers, creating a strong and stable plastic/fiber matrix.

Structural Lumber is a cost-effective and high-performance timber product for marine construction and commercial applications. It has exceptional resistance to marine borers, salt spray, termites, corrosive substances, oil and fuels, fungi, and other environmental stresses. It does not absorb moisture; therefore, it will not rot, splinter or crack.

Structural Lumber products are manufactured in many dimensional lumber and timber sizes, particularly in large cross sections. Deck and dock planks, sheet piling, wale timbers, camels, fenders, and piles are all available from Trimax Building Products. The product comes in almost any transportable length and is standard in Steel Gray. It can be special ordered in colors to complement HDPE.

Structural Lumber has excellent weathering resistance; however, as with many other polyolefins, the material will fade over the service life of the product. The product requires no waterproofing, painting, staining, or similar maintenance when used in many exterior applications.

BASIC USES

Structural Lumber products are used in a variety of commercial and marine applications and are often the product of choice for exterior applications where resistance to salt and fresh water, marine borers, and other environmentally harsh conditions is required. Due to the unique composition of Trimax Structural Lumber, the product can be used for a number of structural members in commercial and shoreline timberwork. It is well suited for:

- Dock and deck planks
- Sheet piling
- Pilings
- Channel markers
- Wale timbers
- Camels
- Fenders
- Posts, beams, and joists

Mechanical Properties @ 70°F	Test Method	Average Value
Density, lbs / cu. in.	ASTM D6111	.027 - .030
Modulus of rupture (ultimate)	ASTM D198	2900 psi
	ASTM D6109	2900 psi
Modulus of elasticity (chord modulus method)	ASTM D198	420,000 psi
	ASTM D6109	325,000 psi
Compression parallel to grain (ultimate)	ASTM 198	1740 psi
Compression perpendicular to grain (ultimate)	ASTM D143	700 psi
Shear parallel to grain	ASTM D143	730 psi
Tension parallel to grain (ultimate)	ASTM 198	1250 psi
Screw withdrawal (lbs/inch of depth)	ASTM D1761	380 lbs / inch
Coef. Thermal expansion in/in/°F	ASTM D6341	0.000034
Coef. Of friction	Tribometer (dry)	0.61
Flame Spread	ASTM E84	"Class C"

LIMITATIONS

This type of plastic lumber product has a significantly higher modulus of elasticity (MOE) than conventional forms of plastic lumber. However, the MOE of Structural Lumber is lower than wood timber in good conditions; therefore, it is important to evaluate the suitability of this product for specific uses. It is recommended that an engineering study be performed prior to use of Structural Lumber products for structural applications. Building code regulations vary by region, so all users should consult local building and safety codes prior to installation for specific requirements.

INSTALLATION

Structural Lumber can be fabricated and installed with the same tools used to work wood lumber. The product will cut and drill very cleanly, as there is no grain to split or chip, or knots to bind tools and bend fasteners. It is reinforced with glass fibers, and precautions should be taken when fabricating this product. Maintain adequate ventilation when generating fabrication dust, and personal respiratory protection such as dust masks should be employed during fabrication, as well as safety glasses or goggles.

Pilings and sheet pilings products can be driven with pile-driving equipment such as vibratory hammers, land-based or barge-mounted drop hammers, or waterjets. For sheet piling installations, backfill soils should always be analyzed to determine that the proper amount of force would be exerted on the sheet piling system. For shoreline timberwork applications, Structural Lumber is used with conventional hardware such as stainless or galvanized bolts, tie rods, nuts, washers, and anchor systems.

When using Structural Lumber for decking, joist spacing should be in accordance with the span tables. Multiple-span data at 120°F or less are presented here:

Structural Allowable Live Load (psf), Multiple Span, at 120°F or less			
Deflection Limit	12" Span	16" Span	24" Span
Structural 2X Decking Board (t = 1.50")			
L / 360	2198	927	275
L / 240	3000*	1391	412
L / 180	3000*	1618*	550

* Load limited by allowable stress of 1000 psi.

Note: Table provides limiting uniform load present on three spans in pounds per square foot (psf) based on noted deflection criteria.

Recommended standard is to limit live load deflection for floors to L / 360 and to limit total deflection (dead + live load) to L / 240. Designers may choose less restrictive or more restrictive criteria for a given application. Except for very unusual and heavy loading, deflection criteria will control allowable plank span.

Deflection determination is based on a modulus of elasticity equal to 325,000 psi at 70° Fahrenheit.

