

Plastecowood's Smartawood Products

Fencing and general installation recommendations.

Thank you for choosing Plastecowood's Smartawood Endurance Plastic Products. For installations please follow these guidelines and recommendations. Our 10 year no quibble guarantee can be invalidated if these instructions and recommendations are not adhered to.

Smartawood is extremely tough and durable and is quite abrasive. As a result, drill bits and saw blades should be tungsten carbide tipped.

Smartawood is made from segregated waste plastic. Plastecowood endeavours to remove as much non-plastic contamination as possible from its input material but occasionally small pieces of metal foil can be incorporated in the profiles, boards and planks. Appropriate Personal Protective Equipment should be worn when working with Smartawood including safety glasses, gloves, safety boots and ear protection.

Plastic will expand in the heat and contract again when it cools. Where fence rails meet on a post they should not be butted up too tightly but a gap of at least 5 mm should be left between them.

Rails will twist in the heat if they expand and they are too tightly joined/ abutted.

Plastecowood Ltd recommends that rails are attached to posts using good quality galvanised mushroom capped bolts which penetrate both the rail and the upright typically with countersunk nuts where appropriate.

The holes can be slightly oversized to allow for expansion and contraction.

Upright posts should be installed so that one third of the post is

below ground and two thirds above ground. Consideration should be given, dependent on weight and span of rails and palings and also site-specific application (weather and ground conditions etc.), as to whether posts should be installed with concrete surround below ground.

Plastecowood strongly recommends that for health and safety reasons and in order to avoid breakage, all upright post holes are pre-drilled so avoiding rock and stone obstacles, or excessively compacted soils or clays. Pre-pointed posts are available but customers are alerted to the fact that the strength of Smartawood posts resides mainly in the outer casing of the post and the points are not as robust as the external casing.

For post and wire fencing galvanised fencing staples to a maximum of 25mm length can be used but it is important that two pilot holes are drilled first for each staple as the outer surface of Plastecowood's Smartawood product is very tough to penetrate and fencing staples may bounce off with the potential to cause injury. Personal protective equipment should be worn including, safety boots, safety goggles and suitable gloves. Ideally screw fixings should be used instead of hammered nails or staples. Whilst fixing wire to Smartawood may take slightly longer than hammering staples into traditional timber, Plastecowood products will not require further maintenance or replacement for many years beyond the lifetime of traditional timber posts.

Product dimensions and colour can vary slightly due to nature of process and input material.

Please also endeavour to collect and dispose of responsibly any loose material resulting from drilling or cutting so as to avoid plastic being lost into the environment.

Smartawood can be recycled at the end of its life by arrangement with Plastecowood Ltd.

For advice on installing any of Plastecowood's products please call

our helpline on 01745 827000 during office hours which are 0900 to 1600 Monday to Friday.

Plastecowood Ltd offers a 10 year no quibble guarantee component exchange guarantee on all its products, subject to fair wear and tear, users following Plastecowood Ltd.'s installation advice and recommendations, and assuming reasonable care with installation and suitability of product for the application. If in doubt, please ask our helpful sales and technical staff. 01745 827000, info@plastecowood.com.