

## **Boardwalk Installation in Recycled Plastic**

Installation of boardwalks in recycled plastic can be done using largely the same methods as for timber, but with some changes in certain areas. Recycled plastic is slightly more flexible than timber and will therefore require shorter spans for decking boards and stringers, it has a larger expansion coefficient and any swarf produced will need to be contained as it is non-biodegradable.

### **Installation method (without handrails).**

Posts should be driven into the ground at maximum 1500mm centres (1400mm between posts) along the length of the boardwalk and at maximum 600mm spacing across the width of the boardwalk. Crossbeams should be attached at exactly the depth of the stringer below the final decking level and the stringers should then be attached at 90° above these, to run along the length of the boardwalk as shown in Fig 1. The decking boards can then be screwed onto the stringers using either stainless steel or 1000 hour sea spray protected decking screws. Sometimes a kick board is required, this can either be a suitable sized recycled plastic board screwed onto the side of the decking boards or for a stronger finish use 50 x 50mm profiles screwed down onto the decking boards at each side of the boardwalk.

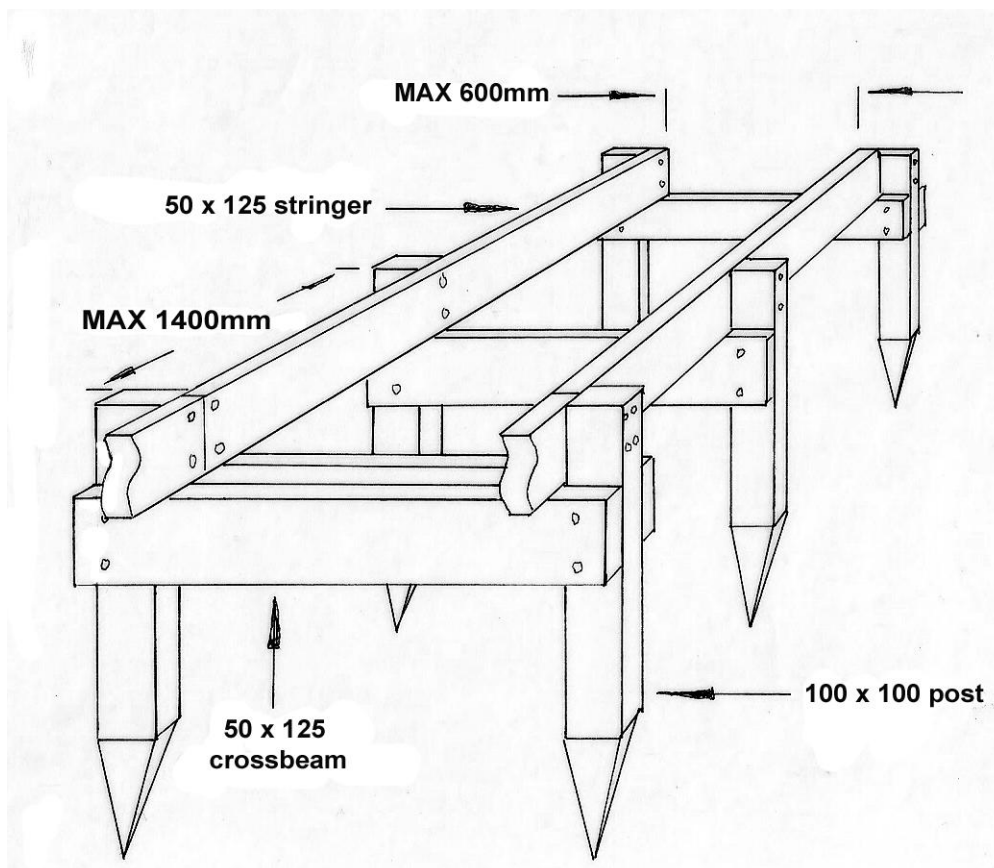


Fig 1

### Installation method (with handrails).

Fence posts should be driven into the ground at maximum 1500mm centres (1400mm between posts) along the length of the boardwalk, to a height of 1120mm above the final height of the boardwalk deck, these will also act as the outside support posts for the boardwalk sub frame. A short post should then be fitted centrally between the two fence posts, allowing a maximum span of 600mm for the finished deck boards. Crossbeams should be attached at exactly the depth of the stringer below the final decking level and the stringers should then be attached at 90° above these, to run along the length of the boardwalk as shown in Fig 2. The decking boards can then be screwed onto the stringers using either stainless steel or 1000 hour sea spray protected decking screws.

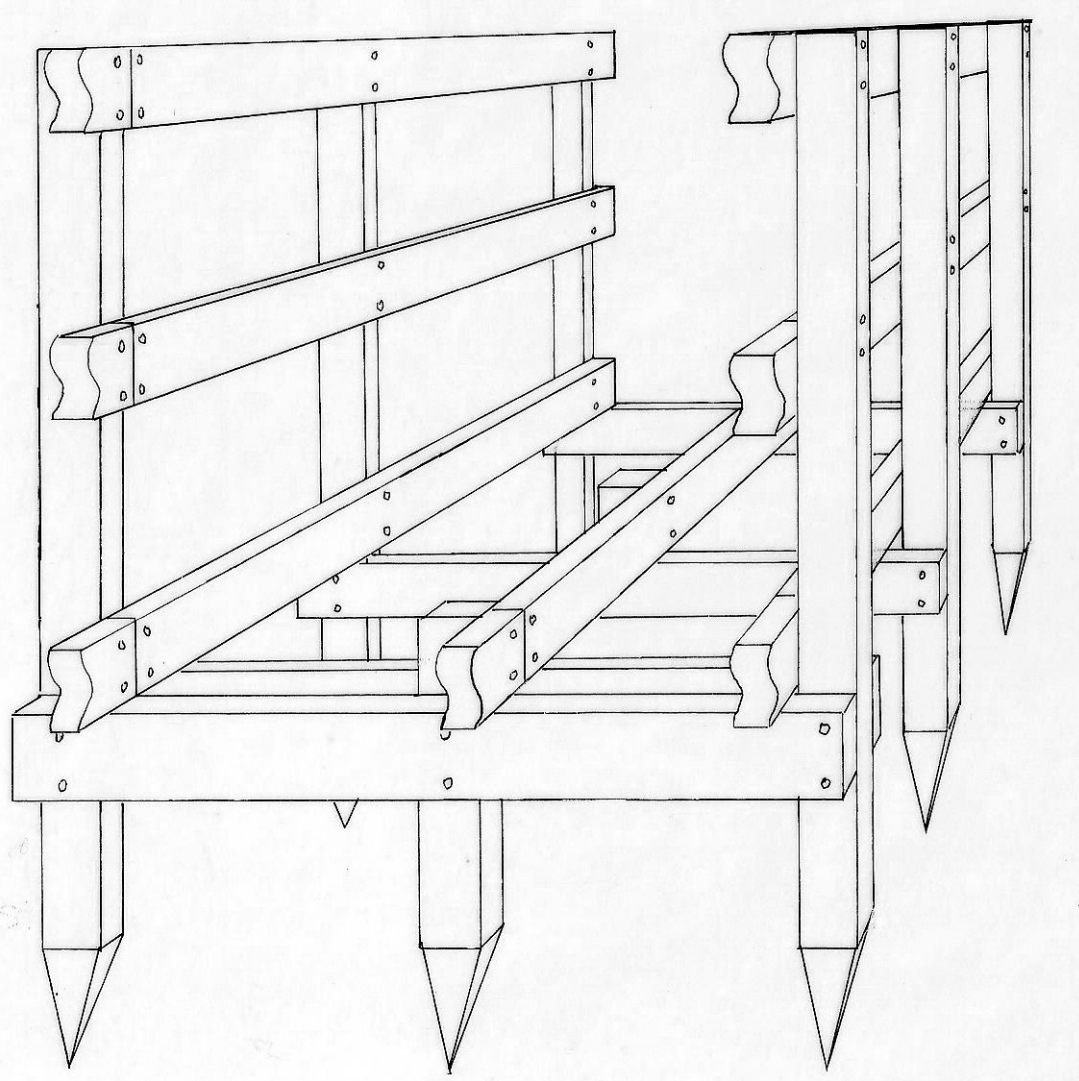


Fig 2

## **General information for working with recycled plastic.**

### **Drilling.**

All fixing holes should be pre-drilled with an HSS or wood bit prior to screwing. A low drilling speed is recommended.

### **Sawing.**

Recycled plastic can be sawn using a handsaw, circular saw or chop saw (including cross-cut mitre saws). A slow cutting speed with a medium tooth blade is best, for example a 305mm 60 tooth TCT blade. If a slow cutting speed can not be achieved it will be necessary to reduce the number of teeth on the blade, for example a 305mm 40 tooth TCT blade.

In all cases when working with recycled plastic it is recommended to keep operating speeds low in order to prevent material from melting on the surface of your implement.