



Composite Gate Boards Useful Information

General Advice

When ordering gate boards always try to order enough boards to fully complete the job you are doing. By doing this we always pick all of your boards from the same batch as slight variations in shade can occur if ordered at different times. Gate boards are no different to ordering wallpaper or paint in that they are manufactured in batches and batch to batch can vary slightly in shades due to the mixtures in the manufacturing process.

Trying to match up a previous made gate or fence panel is very difficult due to the fitted item fading due to UVA rays over a period of time. Buy enough to fully complete your job.

Care of Boards

Our boards are very robust and long lasting but are liable to damage if not handled correct. They can be chipped or scratched if not handled correctly or stored badly. We go to great lengths to protect our boards for dispatch and to protect them from heavy handling by carriers. Small batch orders are shipped in heavy duty cartons with end and edge protection added to avoid chipping or cracking damage by being dropped or mishandled and bigger orders are dispatched on 2m pallets with protection on top and sides.

Please ensure on delivery of your boards that there are enough people to unload the order and accept it from the carrier company. Do not drag boards across each other as this can easily damage the surface. If stacking boards then stack them on a level surface and make sure they are not sagging.

Maintenance

One of the main reasons for using composite boards is the low maintenance involved but they will still need periodically cleaned to maintain their appearance.

To Clean

A jet washer may be used to clean your boards but jet the boards in the direction of the grain and do not use a commercial washer which may be too powerful.

Most people clean the boards with a bucket of soapy water and a soft bristled brush. Household washing up liquid is ideal if the boards have attracted any grease or road dirt brushing in the direction of the grain.

Stains

If any of your boards get stained by something whilst installing or handling then clean immediately to avoid it getting ingrained into the board. Once again simply use a mild detergent and water mix. The marketplace does offer higher strength cleaning products but we always prefer customers using a simple mild detergent mix to avoid possible serious damage.

Do not sand or use abrasive materials to try and remove a mark or blemish from your board. This will only damage it more. Any areas with a slight colour mismatch will weather over a period of up to 3 months until they match.

Scuffs or Scratches

Minor scuffs can often happen during transport, handling or installation and in general they will fade over a period of time. For more prominent scuffs then simply use a hard bristle brush, like a scrubbing brush, and brush in the direction of the grain over the area of the scuff. If you brush too hard there may be a slight colour mismatch but again this will weather and not be noticeable over a short period of time after installation.

Painting:

Whilst you would be able to paint or stain your boards this is not something we would recommend and would be done at your own risk.

Water Stains

Many people get concerned after a period of heavy rain that their boards are showing a stain normally at the base of the boards. This is nothing to be worried about and is known as Extractive Bleeding. This is caused by the natural wood oils used in the product coming out of the product due to the rain. In most cases the weathering process takes 8-10 weeks but could depend on the location of the gate or fence. The stain will disappear after the boards have been wet and dried several times.

Fixings

Fixing should be of a suitable size and suitably protected like zinc plated, galvanised or stainless steel to protect against corrosion

Boards can be fixed using bolts or screws. If you are using bolts then always use a pilot hole to the correct size before fixing. Do not overtighten the bolts as they can cause the boards to crack depending where the hole has hit on the boards as the boards are hollow in places

If using screws then use a screw of the correct type and size and bear in mind that parts of the boards are hollow and you need to ensure the screw hits the solid parts of the board.

On larger gates we always recommend at least ONE central bracing bar to fix the boards back to otherwise the boards may bow during windy or hot weather but they will return to original shape. The boards DO NOT warp but will move if not fixed back to the gate securely

We also recommend to fix back each board as movement can occur if only fixing every third or alternate boards and some customers even go to the extent of applying adhesive at the appropriate areas.

Fading

Composite boards will fade over time, and this will vary according to the amount of sunlight they are exposed to. Any outdoor product left outside for a long period will experience color change. Composite boards are no different and do experience a change in colour. This colour change is not as aggressive when compared to wooden products. The colour will lighten, meaning a stone grey will turn to a light grey, and dark grey will lighten, keeping its dark appearance but around 20 to 30% lighter than its original shade. This should be considered when purchasing.

