



POLY-LUMBER vs. WOOD ... CONSIDERATIONS

* Even the highest quality treated Southern Pine WILL (in time) twist, warp, crack, discolor, and produce splinters. It is simply the nature of anything less than exotic, expensive (usually Asian and Australian) wood species. Because Southern Pine weathers, it gradually adopts a gray, harshly weathered color.

* Chemicals used to preserve lumber can leach into the ground and eventually migrate to water tables. Local and EPA regulations should be investigated prior to use. Additionally, chemically treated lumber manufacturers strongly suggest that a facemask and gloves be worn when sawing or otherwise working with chemically treated lumber.

* Poly-lumber is made from recycled milk and laundry jugs, which, according to sources, has a landfill half-life of over 1,000 years.

* Poly-lumber is environmentally sustainable. A 9 Station Fitness Trails system consumes over 25,000 1-gallon plastic containers and translates into a savings of 1,765 ft³ in landfill.

* Poly-lumber requires no maintenance, is UV stable and doesn't discolor, crack or split. Comparatively, wood will progressively age and weather resulting in the aforementioned negative characteristics.

* Fitness Trails receives frequent calls from park systems around the US who are inquiring about replacing wooden trail (aka par course) systems that have rotted beyond the point of use and have been removed.

* As wooden systems age, sharp splinters of varying sizes will develop -- primarily at 90° edges and corners. In turn, where users are seated, touching, running or moving their legs and hands over the wood, injuries of varying degrees can result and lead to possible litigation.

Granted, Poly-lumber (i.e. Fitness Trails) systems cost more initially! However, in considering its life expectancy, density, UV stability, absence of weathering, discoloring, splintering and/or need of replacement for decades, it is unquestionably a longer-term investment with less injury and liability concerns as opposed to being an expense that will require maintenance and/or replacement as well as accompanying expenditures.