

EnviroSlat®

Decorative Cladding and Screen Fencing Fixing & Handling Guidelines

Storage

It is important to ensure that EnviroSlat is not exposed to direct sunlight or excessive temperatures while stored in packs in order to reduce excessive heat build-up.

EnviroSlat must be stored flat and dry and off the ground; Standard 5.4 metre long packs of EnviroSlat require a minimum of seven gluts (supports) under the pack or be placed on an appropriate length custom length pallet for proper storage.

Working with EnviroSlat

EnviroSlat will expand or contract in length with rising or falling temperatures. All boards should be conditioned before cutting so that they are at an even temperature.

Boards are best cut in the shade before they are exposed to radiant heat and in ambient temperatures under 30 degrees Celsius (in the morning). When cutting lengths of EnviroSlat you should take in to account the temperature of the conditioned boards and allow for expansion or contraction of the boards based on the likely temperature fluctuations over the year at the site.

You should allow for some expansion between boards that are butted together or where boards are butted against a post or other structure. We recommend a minimum 5mm gap between the end of an EnviroSlat board and any frame, fixed surface or another board. EnviroSlat will expand by approximately

7-9mm (3-4.5mm at each end) over a board length of 5400mm based on a temperature increase of 40 degrees Celsius. The surface of EnviroSlat could be as much as 25 degrees Celsius warmer than the ambient temperature when subjected to continuous direct sunlight. Therefore the board could reach a surface temperature of up to 65 degrees Celsius on a day when the ambient temperature reaches 40 degrees Celsius.

Fencing/Screening/Fixing

EnviroSlat is designed to be fixed directly to posts that are fixed in/on the ground. The posts can be made of timber, steel or aluminium and need to be of a suitable cross section and strength to hold the intended fence size/weight.

The maximum span for continuously fixing EnviroSlat boards is 900mm between support posts in order to minimize flexing caused by thermal expansion/contraction of the boards. For single spans the maximum distance between support posts is 600mm.

Spacing between slats comes down to personal preference and the amount of privacy, shade and air flow that is required, although most projects are installed with 10-20mm gaps between boards. Boards can be butted side to side if required as there is minimal expansion across the board width.

EnviroSlat 70mm x 15mm boards can only be fixed with screws inserted through the front face of the board (front fix) where the screw head will be visible. Button head, wafer head or countersunk screws in either 8 or 10 gauge should be used to front fix EnviroSlat boards. When front fixing it is recommended that you pre drill all the holes for the screws. If using countersunk screws both the hole and the countersink need to be pre-drilled. All holes should be 1-2mm larger than the shank of the screw but not too large so that they are still hidden under the head of the screw. Do not over tighten the screw and ensure that it does not bury in to the surface of the EnviroSlat board. Screws should be positioned a minimum of 25mm from any profile edge for the 70mm x 15mm profile to avoid any risk of the boards splitting.

The expansion and contraction of EnviroSlat boards that are fixed with screws through the board is reduced based on the closer spacing of screws along the length of the board and the 1-2mm oversize holes for the shank relieves some of the pressure from the expanding or contracting board on the screws themselves.

- All screws should be plated or made from stainless steel or brass
- If coloured screws are required we recommend pre-painting your screws before installation
- EnviroSlat profiles should be fixed with one screw at each support point
- Nailing is not recommended for securing EnviroSlat

Decorative Cladding Fixing

EnviroSlat decorative cladding is designed to be fixed directly to battens in either the horizontal or vertical direction. The battens can be made of timber, steel or aluminium and need to be of a suitable cross section and strength to hold the intended weight. EnviroSlat profiles can also be fixed directly to a suitable wall substrate.

Futurewood recommends that EnviroSlat decorative cladding should be fixed at either 450mm or 600mm centres.

Spacing between slats comes down to personal preference based on the "look" that you wish to achieve or the amount of privacy, shade and air flow that is required.

EnviroSlat 40mm x 30mm and 60mm x 40mm slats as well as larger custom made profiles of decorative cladding boards can be either face fixed or rear fixed.

For rear fix installations a pilot hole relative to the shank size of the screw must be drilled into the slat to reduce the risk of the board splitting. The recommended maximum screw depth for rear fix is 60% of the boards thickness.

Futurewood recommends using a 10 gauge countersunk screw when fixing

Fixing details and specifications may change without notice. For further information email info@futurewood.com.au.

through the front face of the board. The thread type will be relevant to the material that the board is being fixed to. For rear fixing we recommend a 10 gauge coarse threaded particle board screw or similar. For face fixing it is recommended that you pre drill and pre countersink all the holes for the screws. All holes should be 1-2mm larger than the shank of the screw but not too large so that they are still hidden under the head of the screw. Do not over tighten the screw and ensure that it does not bury in to the surface of the EnviroSlat board. Screws should be positioned a minimum of 25mm from any board edge (15mm to 20mm for the 40mm x 30mm profile) to avoid any risk of the boards splitting.

These thicker boards can also be fixed using a recessed screw and a push in plug to achieve a "concealed fix" – refer to Futurewood for more information.

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Colour & Surface Finishing

The colour of your EnviroSlat board will weather in the first 4-12 weeks of exposure to the elements.

After the initial weathering process, the colour will be maintained over many years with only very slight changes year on year. The manufacturing process does allow for a very slight variation in colour from board to board and batch to batch of material. Slight colour change may also occur over time as part of the natural weathering effect.

Rough edges on cut ends can be removed using a fine abrasive paper.

Cleaning

EnviroSlat should be washed down periodically with Futurewood's specially formulated Composite timber Cleaner in order to clean off accumulated dirt/grime.

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For further information email info@futurewood.com.au

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Futurewood Pty. Ltd. A.B.N: 74 408 570 335
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