

TUSCAN MANUFACTURING – GREEN INITIATIVES

Vinyl fencing, decking, railing and other outdoor living products - including pergolas, arbors and gazebos - are among the newest and fastest growing applications in the building products industry.

Vinyl offers a lower maintenance and more durable alternative to the traditional materials that have dominated these products, including wood and metals.



- **Recyclables and disposal issues:**

Because vinyl is a thermoplastic, it can be reheated, melted and used again. A recent study determined that more than 99 percent of all vinyl ends up in a finished product. Even the vinyl sawdust that is created by decking installation can be put back into the recycling stream.

No paints or stains are left over requiring special treatment for disposal, and no preservative chemicals are needed thereby eliminating potential absorption into the ground water.

- **Energy efficiency:**

Because of its durability, vinyl outdoor living products do not have to be replaced as often as many other outdoor building materials.

Durability is a significant benefit for the environment because less energy and other resources are used to make the product.

- **Resource conservation:**

As with all resources, the use of wood has consequences for the environment - especially the loss of habitat and soil from over-harvesting and old growth forests that produce the best wood.

- **Relatively low energy content:**

PVC has a lower feedstock energy especially compared to other polymers and common building materials. It is the least energy intensive of all thermoplastics.

PVC resin manufacturing has achieved considerable energy savings over the last 5 years and reduced greenhouse gas emissions.

- **Non-renewable resource use:**

Over 50% of PVC's feedstock is derived from salt, an abundantly available resource, which means that PVC consumes proportionately less non-renewable fossil fuels.

- **Design for durability and long life:**

90% of PVC applications are designed for medium or long term use. PVC is resistant to weathering, chemical rotting, corrosion, shock and abrasion.

Vinyl products require very little maintenance over their lifespans - a benefit both environmentally and economically.

PVC products do not require painting, reducing potential emissions.

Combined with durability, this makes for very useful and affordable products.

- **Health and safety:**

As a polymer that resists combustion, vinyl is one of the few materials meeting the stringent National Fire Protection Association (NFPA).

PVC is lightweight and easy to install in most of its applications. These factors offer occupational advantages over traditional materials such wood.

PVC's light weight also means less energy is required for transportation to site.

- **Minimal pollution:**

PVC is produced under environmentally acceptable manufacturing methods and well within international guidelines for PVC manufacturing.

- **Air quality:**

Other materials that are synthetic or have been chemically treated in any way sometimes emit VOCs (volatile organic compounds) during installation, creating concern about the quality of air.