

Plastic Shopping Bags and Plastic Lumber

- A whole new product category and exciting new products that are more environmentally friendly are emerging. International consulting firm, Principia Partners, estimates that worldwide demand for woodfibre-plastic composite products will reach \$1.4 billion US by 2007 and will grow at an annual rate of 14 per cent through the decade.
- The term, plastic composite lumber, means that the product incorporates recycled or virgin plastics and that the plastic is mixed with natural fibres such as wood. It can also contain more than one type of plastic. The recycled plastic material used can be derived from industrial, commercial or post-consumer sectors.
- Several companies are recycling plastic shopping bags into composite lumber for decks, park benches, picnic tables and waste receptacles.
- Cascades, QC, manufactures a plastic lumber called "Perma Deck" that uses 100 per cent recycled plastics, including plastic shopping bags.
- Northern Plastic Lumber, Lindsay, ON, manufactures "Plasboard", which is made out of 100 per cent recycled plastics, including plastic shopping bags.
- Rival Inventory Control, Newmarket, ON, produces an all-plastic lumber product that may incorporate used plastic shopping bags and post-industrial scrap.
- Awax Manufacturing, Calgary, AB, makes plastic lumber from 100 per cent recycled plastics, including plastic shopping bags
- In the United States, Virginia-based Trex Company purchases about 300 million pounds (136 million kilograms) of used polyethylene a year for manufacturing composite lumber decking and railing products.