

## Composite Board Installation

We provide a one-year warranty on our composite wood range, which includes sanded, woodgrain, embossed, and ECO Boards, contingent upon proper installation following our installation guide.

To assist with this, we have compiled some essential tips for fitting the boards. One of the primary advantages of using wood plastic composite (WPC) boards over traditional wood is their reduced susceptibility to movement due to weather changes. However, it is important to note that composite boards can still expand and contract.

Considering this, we believe it's vital to allow space for expansion during installation. We recommend leaving a minimum expansion gap of 10mm around the boards to accommodate their movement to expand, and for larger gates, a larger gap is advisable.

Securing the boards while maintaining an expansion gap can be quite tricky. Our best practice is to weld an L bracket to the gate frame, lay all the boards in while ensuring the required expansion gap, and then attach a second L bracket to the gate frame. This method effectively sandwiches the boards, securing them while allowing for movement.

Self-adhesive foam tape can also be useful in temporarily holding the boards in place before permanent fixing.

If you are installing fencing boards over 1200mm high into a gate, we suggest adding a mid-rail. There are several effective ways to do this, but the two most successful options we've found are:

1. Installing a piece of box section through the middle of the gate, which allows you to halve the board size and create additional expansion gap space.
2. Fitting a mid-rail behind the gate and using fixings to bolt through the board for extra support, enabling the boards to be installed as one solid piece.

When bolting through the boards, we recommend that the diameter of the hole be at least 2mm larger than the bolt's thread to provide room for expansion. Both methods help minimize the risk of the boards bowing or becoming misshapen.

Before installing any infill or boarding to a gate or fence panel we recommend carrying out an environmental assessment to make sure that you are using a suitable material for the environment and installation. When carrying out your assessment you will need to consider what natural elements can affect it. Just like with gate automation products, high wind areas may not be suitable for a closed boarded installation.

The amount of time the installation spends in other natural elements such as rainfall or in direct sunlight can also affect its longevity, for example, an installation on the south coast in a south facing direction will come up against different challenges than an installation in the north and north facing.

It is always the responsibility of you as the installer to ensure that it is the correct infill is chosen and installed correctly but we are always on hand to offer our expert opinion if required. If you follow the above guidance, we believe that you will have an installation that you can be proud of for many years to come, if you have any questions please contact our technical team for further assistance