



Strong, durable and easily recycled.



# A Sustainable Choice

Beautiful and durable DecoWood is an ecologically sustainable alternative to other building products that are commonly used in the building industry.

## The Product

Aluminium is a highly regarded building material because of its strength and durability, together with the ease of recycling. Aluminium does not have the environmental issues associated with the use of other materials such as timber and composites. Timber requires the logging of trees and not all timber supplied into the Australian market is from sustainable forests. For example, a common hardwood known as Kwilla or Merbau comes from rainforests and is not a renewable plantation timber. More information about forest clearing, including case studies, can be found on the United Nations website.

Timber, whether sourced from plantations or rainforests, requires regular painting, and all paints contain environmentally harmful Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) which are released into the atmosphere as the paint dries and cures. Composites are manufactured by gluing together plastics and wood particles. Glues contain a high levels of VOCs, and being mainly an organic material, composites will break down over time.

DecoWood is not faced with any of the problems associated with timber and composites. DecoWood is a durable powder coating on aluminium that never requires painting, and therefore has none of the VOC emissions that are involved with paints. Because aluminium is a metal, it is stronger and more durable than timber and composites, meaning it requires less frequent replacement and provides less stress on the earth's resources. At the end of an aluminium product's life it can be easily recycled and with low energy, and can be recycled many times.



## Aluminium Quick Facts

- More than 75% of all of the aluminium produced in the world is still in use today.
- Two of the largest producers of aluminium, Canada and Norway, use 100% renewable hydro power for aluminium refining.
- Aluminium refineries in Invecargill (NZ) and Launceston, Tasmania are powered by renewable hydro power.
- Recycling aluminium saves 90 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> every year.

Source: International Aluminium Institute

| SUSTAINABILITY INDEX | DECOWOOD | TIMBER | PLASTIC COMPOSITES |
|----------------------|----------|--------|--------------------|
| No Logging of Trees  | ✓        | ?      | X                  |
| No VOCs              | ✓        | X      | X                  |
| Recyclable Material  | ✓        | ?      | X                  |
| Recycle Offcuts      | ✓        | ?      | X                  |
| Durable - Long Life  | ✓        | X      | X                  |
| No PVC               | ✓        | ✓      | X                  |
| Low Energy Recycle   | ✓        | ?      | X                  |

Visit [www.deco.net.au](http://www.deco.net.au) or call 02 9603 1888 for more information.