

1996 NOVA AWARD WINNER**Synthetic Lumber from Post Consumer Recycled Plastic**

The City of New York has constructed the 11,400 sq.ft. Tiffany Street Pier using Post Consumer Recycled Plastic (PCRCP). This material had been used by other municipalities for fender piles and pier decking and it appeared that the same product with the addition of adequate reinforcement might be used in a structural way. This important concept proved viable from an engineering standpoint. A second and equally important consideration was that the PCRCP product reduced the volume of plastic in the solid waste stream that would enter a landfill.

PCRCP has UV and plasticizer additives in its mix and replaces traditional creosoted and CCA pressure treated timbers. It has many advantages: it is environmentally friendly; it is resistant to marine borers; it has a higher flash point than traditional timbers; it has an infrequent maintenance need; and it does not split, delaminate, rot, corrode or spall. It is also cost effective on a life cycle basis even when considering the higher cost of the material.

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