



INSTALLATION GUIDE



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To achieve a safe and long lasting Ekologix Screening installation, it is important to read the following guide in full.

The installation guide is intended to be viewed along with the Ekologix Screening installation videos found on our website www.ekologix.com.au

HEALTH & SAFETY

Always use proper protective clothing and safety equipment when cutting and drilling.

Ekologix Screening Should Not:

- Be used as a structural or load bearing member.
- Be used in any potentially stressed situation such as a security or safety balustrade or decking.
- Be applied directly to a solid surface such as concrete.

Warnings

1. It is the sole responsibility of the homeowner, contractor or installer to determine the specific requirements, effectiveness, suitability and safety in regards to any application or use of Ekologix Screening products.
2. Ekologix Screening is not designed to be a freestanding product. It must be installed safely and correctly to a fixed frame.

3. The frame must comply with all the relevant regulations and aspects of the Building Code of Australia. The posts must be securely anchored to the ground (not floating).

4. Ekologix Screening can be fixed with 1 fastener at every post and any single piece of Ekologix Screening must be installed over at least 2 spans (i.e. 3 posts).

NATURAL VARIANCES & WEATHERING

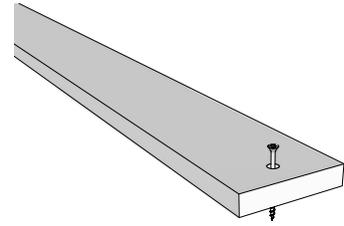
Ekologix Screening is made from reclaimed and recycled materials. Whilst every care is taken to ensure consistency of performance and quality, natural variances will occur from one board/batch to the other in appearance, colour and texture. These natural variances are similar with those naturally found on timber screening and are designed to even out with time and weathering once installed.

The weathering process for Ekologix Screening will vary according to exposure to different climates, sunlight and moisture. Ekologix Screening boards will usually achieve their fully weathered colour within 3-6 months. Slight colour variation of Ekologix Screening boards will occur and are considered normal and not a defect or fault. Our aim is to replicate the variations found in natural timber to give your screening the most natural look possible.

INSTALLATION & FASTENING

Pre-drilling and countersinking all holes is recommended when installing Ekologix Screening. This is to avoid mushrooming (i.e. when the material rises above the screw and the surface of the screening).

Install with 1 fastener at each post. 2 fasteners are only required when the screening length is 900mm (i.e. door frames).



Pre-drill and countersink this side up

CUTTING

For best results, use carbide tipped blades. When using a drop saw we recommend a 60-80 teeth blade for cutting.

FIXING TO TIMBER POSTS

Stainless steel 8G x 40mm/50mm screws is required when fixing Ekologix Screening to timber posts

Pre-drill and countersink the boards using an 8G quickbit/smartbit tool that has an appropriate countersink to suit the head of the screw (to avoid mushrooming). In locations that experience large temperature variations, you may need to pre-drill holes slightly larger than the diameter of the screw to allow for increased movement caused by expansion and contraction. Avoid over tightening.

Nailing is not recommended



Fix either side

FIXING TO STEEL POSTS

High quality galvanised 8G x 30mm/45mm screws that are appropriate for steel applications is required when fixing Ekologix Screening to steel posts.

Pre-drill and countersink the boards using an 8G quickbit/smartbit tool that has an appropriate countersink to suit the head of the screw (to avoid mushrooming). **You will need to further drill out the holes in the boards slightly larger than the diameter of the screw to allow for increased movement caused by expansion and contraction (Tip: you should be able to push the screw through the boards with your thumb).** Avoid over tightening.

Wing Tek screws are not recommended

FIXING SPECIFICATIONS

	Specification (mm)
Residential centre-to-centre post spacing (max)	900
Minimum ground clearance	50
Minimum side-to-side gap	6
Minimum end-to-end gap (butt joint)	1-3*
Minimum gap from side and end edge of board to solid structures	2-3*
Minimum distance from side edge for fastening 1 screw	Centre of board
Minimum distance from side edge for fastening 2 screws	15
Minimum distance from end edge for fastening	15-20
Timber post installation - stainless steel screws (pre-drill and countersink)	Required
Steel post installation - galvanised steel screws (pre-drill and countersink)	Required

*Please refer to section on Expansion & Contraction for more information

EXPANSION & CONTRACTION

Ekologix Screening expands and contracts in length with changes in temperature. This is normal behaviour of any wood plastic composite and is not a product fault. It is most important to take this into proper consideration during installation of your Ekologix Screening.

The amount of expansion and contraction you experience is dependent on several different factors including:

- Seasonal climate – installing in the peak of summer or winter
- Screening position – if the screening is in direct sunlight or part shade etc.
- Local climate – if the local area is subject to large changes in temperature during the day compared to the night
- Board length - the longer the board, the more it will expand and contract
- Fully fastened boards - you will notice less movement in the boards once they are full installed/fastened down to the post

BUTT JOINTS AND EXPANSION GAPS

As a result of the aforementioned factors, leaving a 1mm-3mm expansion gap at the butt joint is a good guide. However, if you are installing in the peak of summer or on one of the hottest days for your location, reduce this gap to 1mm. If you are installing in the peak of winter or on one of the coldest days for your location, the required 3mm should be left as the boards have already contracted and need adequate room to expand as the temperature rises.

In moderate temperatures, we recommend leaving an approximate 2mm gap so it still has room to expand and contract as the temperature increases or decreases respectively.

Temperature	End-to-end gaps (butt joints)
Hottest day of the year	1mm
Average temperature	2mm
Coldest day of the year	3mm

Tips:

- Allow the boards a few days to acclimatise to your site conditions. This allows your Ekologix Screening to adapt to the ambient heat typical of your location.

SOLID STRUCTURES

A minimum end gap of 2mm-3mm applies when installing against solid structures. If you are installing in the peak of summer or on one of the hottest days for your location, you can reduce this gap to 2mm. If you are installing in the peak of winter or on one of the coldest days for your location, a gap of approximately 3mm should be left.

When installing Ekologix Screening vertically, a minimum side gap of 3mm applies when installing against solid structures.

THERMAL DEFLECTION

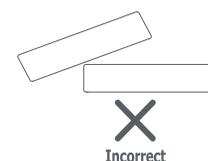
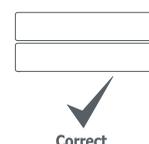
Due to the nature of polymers this product may exhibit a slight thermal deflection between posts, which may occur within 3-6 months after installation. This can be caused by heat exposure to one side of a board as opposed to the other. The extent to which this occurs is dependant on several factors including climate and the direction which the screening is facing the sun. This phenomenon is not considered a product fault. You may wish to consider additional post support if this occurs.

STORAGE & HANDLING

Ekologix Screening boards must be:

- Supported at least every 600mm on a level plane.
- Laid flat especially during transportation and never at an angle.
- Never be dropped or 'dumped' when unloading.
- Stored on a flat, dry surface.
- Covered until it is time to use them for installation.

Storage



CLEANING AFTER INSTALLATION

A general clean is essential immediately after installation to remove tannins and surface debris from installation. To perform a general clean, scrub the screening in the direction of the grain with water mixed with dishwashing liquid or sugar soap using a medium bristle brush. Wash down thoroughly with a high-pressure washer or garden hose with a fan spray nozzle.

In some cases, you may need to repeat the above procedure until the tannins have been removed.



WARNING!

The use of a pressure washer greater than 1500 PSI and/or applied closer than 30cm from the screening surface could damage the boards. Do not use dirt blaster type nozzles.