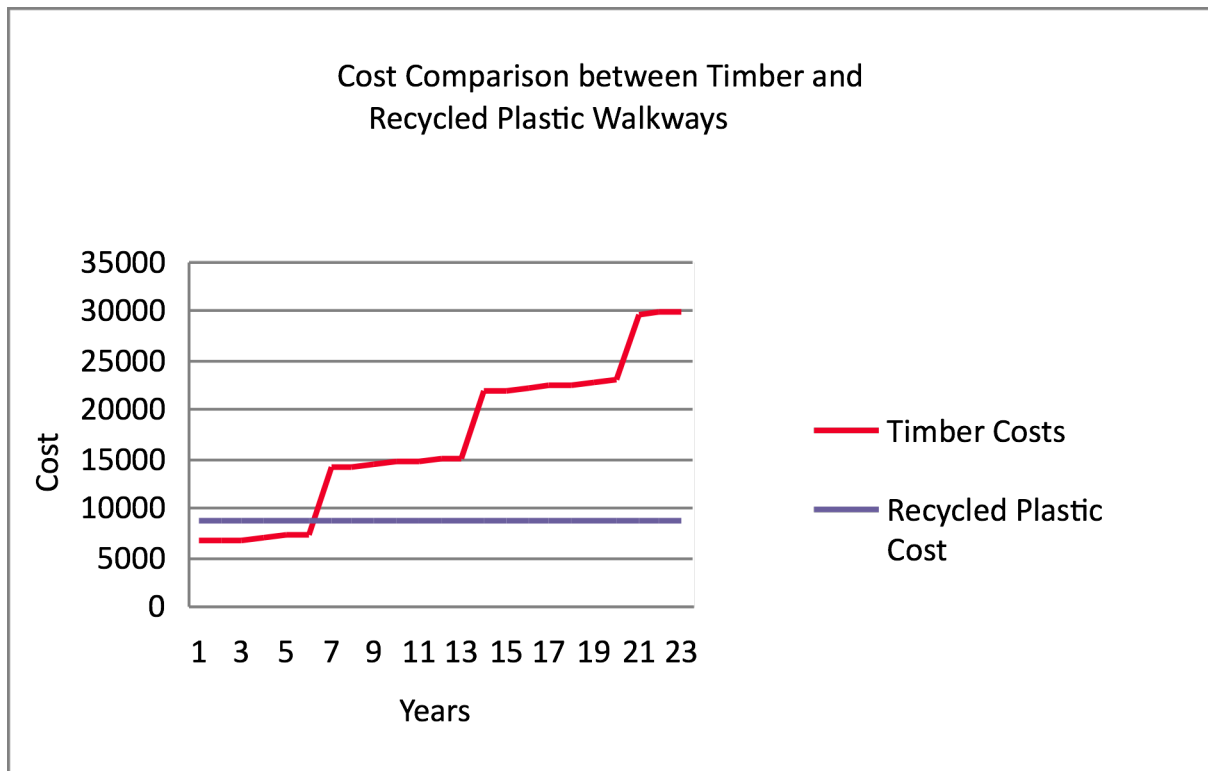


WRAP Study Cost Comparison Recycled Plastic vs Timber in Construction of a Walkway



Recycled plastic Payback

This example of comparative costs between timber and Recycled plastic lumber, is taken from a walkway, but its obvious conclusions can be applied to most situations where the two materials would be permanently outdoors, continually at the mercy of the elements.

Assumptions

Timber solution must be replaced every 7 years. Maintenance on timber is required annually from year 2. Inflation is not applied to the annual cost of maintenance. The average annual cost of maintenance of materials and labour is £176 per annum.

**Average cost per 100 meters of walkway over the time period shown:
Timber £1300 - Plastic £370**

Conclusion

Although the initial outlay for recycled plastic is higher the long-term costs are very significantly lower compared to timber.

		Timber Costs	Cum	Recycled Plastic Costs	Cum
Materials		£3050		£5000	
Installation		£3500		£3500	
	Years		Cost		
	1		£6550		£8500
	2		£6550		£8500
Maintenance begins	3	£176	£6726		£8500
	4	£176	£6902		£8500
	5	£176	£7078		£8500
	6	£176	£7254		£8500
Replacement required	7	£6726	£13980		£8500
	8	£176	£14156		£8500
	9	£176	£14332		£8500
	10	£176	£14508		£8500
	11	£176	£14684		£8500
	12	£176	£14860		£8500
	13	£176	£15036		£8500
	14	£6726	£21762		£8500
	15	£176	£21938		£8500
	16	£176	£22114		£8500
	17	£176	£22290		£8500
	18	£176	£22466		£8500
	19	£176	£22642		£8500
	20	£176	£22818		£8500
	21	£6726	£29544		£8500
	22	£176	£29720		£8500
	23	£176	£29896		£8500
		£29896		£8500	
		£1300		£370	