



# Pultrusions vs. Structural Timber

## COMPARE!

### Pultruded Fiberglass Structural Shapes

### Structural Timber Douglas Fir

#### Corrosion Resistance

Superior resistance to a broad range of chemicals. Unaffected by moisture or immersion in water if ends are properly sealed.

Surfacing veil and UV additives create excellent weatherability.

Can warp, rot and decay from exposure to moisture, water and chemicals.

Coatings or preservatives required to increase corrosion or rot resistance can create hazardous waste and/or high maintenance.

#### Insect Resistance

Unaffected by insects.

Susceptible to insect attack (marine borers, termites, etc.). Coatings to increase resistance to insects can be environmentally hazardous.

#### Strength

Pultruded fiberglass is stronger, and has higher flexural strength than timber. Ultimate flexural strength (Fu)  
LW = 30,000 psi,  
CW = 10,000 psi.

Compression strength is 30,000 psi.

Extreme fiber bending = up to 2800 psi.

Compression parallel to grain = up to 1800 psi.

#### Stiffness

Pultruded fiberglass is approximately 1-1/2 times as rigid as wood. Modulus of Elasticity LW =  $2.9 \times 10^6$  psi,  
CW =  $1.2 \times 10^6$  psi.

Modulus of Elasticity = up to  $1.8 \times 10^6$  psi.

#### Electrical Conductivity

Non-conductive - high dielectric capability.

Timber can be conductive when it is wet.

#### Weight

Specific Gravity = 1.7  
Pultruded fiberglass has significantly higher strength-to-weight ratio.

Specific Gravity = 0.51 (oven dried).

#### Finishing and Color

Pigments added to the resin provide color throughout the part. Special colors available. Composite design can be customized for required finishes.

Must be primed and painted for colors. To maintain color, repainting may be required.

#### Cost

Lower maintenance, longer product life often equals lower overall costs.

Lower initial cost.