



### Specification chooser

It is well known that the Ecobond material is a significantly higher technical specification than anything else in the industry, so the product selection will probably be based on if you need such a high specification? or would the budget range be acceptable?

For formal installations that need the additional testing and guarantees to withstand high use without adding patches of other types of surfaces or base layers, or when chemical safety is important with crawling children or water courses then Ecobond is the only option in the industry that is likely to be acceptable. However if you simply need an informal ground covering then cheaper processing methods may allow you to use our 'Just Mulch' or other budget brands.

The table below outlines the differences and should enable you to decide what is important for your decision.

#### **Gummibond:**

This is what we call the surface when it is installed by us and is offered with a meaningful 5-year use warranty in our name. We are the only provider that does this.

#### **Ecobond rubber mulch system:**

This is the brand name for the rubber & binder when we supply materials for others to install. Safe for areas such as regulated playgrounds and others needing certainty on coverage rates, fall height protection, toxicity, flammability, tested durability, and the longest possible colour retention - the Ecobond materials system is the professional's choice.

#### **Just Mulch materials:**

This is our budget range designed to compete with unit price where safety, durability and technical performance may be less important. Then, like other suppliers, we can utilise some cheaper production methods, but also like the competitors, we do not install this material or offer the range of testing or give the same warranty that our Ecobond grade has.

In the following chart, you may want to ask, 'why does it matter?' or 'what are the consequences?' so we invite you to call us for further clarity on any subject as we have far too much information to detail here.



Material detail – The Principles	Industry standard	Just Mulch	Ecobond	Gummibond
Is there a controlled classification of rubber input material?	X No May use uncontrolled waste sources?	✓ Yes	✓ Yes This is why we know how it will perform in use – varied input material can give varied end results	✓ Yes We only install Ecobond materials
Does it only use 100% solid rubber from fork truck tyres? (Not from pneumatic road tyres)	X No There can be many problems using car tyres for this use	✓ Yes	✓ Yes This is why we know how it will perform in use – varied input material can give varied end results	✓ Yes We only install Ecobond materials
Is the material 100% metal free?	X No Often quoted as “Up to 99%” Attempting to remove metals with a full 99% success rate can still leave 10kilos of wire in a 60sqm area	✓ Yes	✓ Yes 100% zero metal	✓ Yes We only install Ecobond materials
Is the material fibre free?	X No Often quoted as “Up to 99%” Fibre in competitors’ materials cannot be removed and is a variable that will affect the strength of the binder and can influence the flammability	✓ Yes	✓ Yes 100% zero fibre	✓ Yes We only install Ecobond materials

Material detail – The Principles (continued)	Industry standard	Just Mulch	Ecobond	Gummibond
Is it 100% rubber shred only? (With no chippings or granulate added?)	X No Adding them is cheaper in production but is a variable that affects the colouring process and severely weakens the bond when installed	✓ Yes	✓ Yes Only shred with no chipping or granulate added	✓ Yes We only install Ecobond materials
Does it use a specifically designed binder?	X No Different binders will give different results – so cannot be warrantied	X No We have a recommended binder that we know works well but it cannot come with the same warranty as the Ecobond brand	✓ Yes Our binder is specifically developed so we can have confidence in the long-term use of the finished surface	✓ Yes Our binder is specifically developed so we can have confidence in the long-term use of the finished surface – that’s why our 5-year warranty is unique in the industry

The company	Industry standard	Just Mulch	Ecobond	Gummibond
The suppliers' green credentials	X No Unknown or uncontrolled	X No	✓ Yes A major differential if you work with us. We are proud to publish ours – view and download from the website.	✓ Yes We only install Ecobond materials
Is the system European REACH compliant	X No Or unknown or uncontrolled	X No	✓ Yes In addition, our system is also in compliance with the European Green Deal requirements	✓ Yes we only install Ecobond materials
If there is a warranty, does it cover the intended use	X No Or only a short-term guarantee against a faulty product – but no one else gives a warranty on its use in all conditions	X No The installer may offer something?	✓ Yes The installer can offer a 5 year warranty - not just for the materials, but for 5 years use with no exclusions for high demand areas such as under swings	✓ Yes We have a meaningful 5 year warranty on our own installs for all uses
Is the warranty offered without the need for maintenance?	X No Conditions will be attached	X No Conditions may vary	✓ Yes the installer does not need to add conditions	✓ Yes there are no maintenance requirements with our system

Material detail - Processing	Industry standard	Just Mulch	Ecobond	Gummibond
Does the seller have control of the input material and control of the shredding process? (Or is it an uncontrolled variable?)	X No Sellers and installers do not control the production	✓ Yes We control the production	✓ Yes We control the production	✓ Yes We only install Ecobond materials
Is it processed to a controlled shred size, shape and cut? (or are there too many variables to be confident it will work every time?)	X No	✓ Yes	✓ Yes Our processing and then filtering ensures we install consistent material which we know will work every time	✓ Yes We only install Ecobond materials
Is there accurate control of the coating process?	X No Often pigment and rubber rotated in a large tumbler	X No But we consider we have an accurate tumbler system	✓ Yes Our unique system of electric injection of pigment into small, temperature-controlled batches ensures consistency	✓ Yes We only install Ecobond materials
How thorough is the coating & colouring process?	X No Variable, basic covering - It is cheaper in production to reduce the coating process, but it leads to problems during use	✓ Yes Full coating	✓ Yes Up to 5 times more coating	✓ Yes We only install Ecobond materials

Material detail - Testing	Industry standard	Just Mulch	Ecobond	Gummibond
Has the system been impact tested to BS1177? (can be referred to as a CFH or critical fall height)	?	X No	✓ Yes See our test data sheet	✓ Yes We only install Ecobond materials
Is it the rubber mulch system that is tested or does it need base layers or the introduction of other surfacing types?	X No Base layers give rise to other problems	X No	✓ Yes We test just the rubber mulch system without base layers	✓ Yes We only install Ecobond materials
Has the system been Toxicology tested – oral (toy safe) to EN 71-3?	X No Many others will need to state that theirs is unsuitable for crawling children	X No	✓ Yes See our test data sheet	✓ Yes We only install Ecobond materials
Has the system been tested for skin contact (carcinogenic) Toxicology – PAH – XP 33-012?	X No Cannot be done as it is only relevant if you have control of the material used	X No	✓ Yes See our test data sheet	✓ Yes We only install Ecobond materials
Has the system been tested for flammability – EN7188?	X No Fibre or variable types of rubber will give different results	X No	✓ Yes See our test data sheet	✓ Yes We only install Ecobond materials
Has the system been tested for slip resistance - EN7188?	X No	X No	✓ Yes See our test data sheet	✓ Yes We only install Ecobond materials
Has the system been tested for resistance to abrasive wear – EN7188?	X No	X No	✓ Yes See our test data sheet	✓ Yes We only install Ecobond materials
Has the system been tested for resistance to indentation – EN7188?	X No	X No	✓ Yes See our test data sheet	✓ Yes We only install Ecobond materials

Material detail – Finished surface	Industry standard	Just Mulch	Ecobond	Gummibond
Does the finished surface match with the original marketing?	X No Variations in shred size, and the uncontrolled adding of angular granulate pieces will result in colour variations and different looks	X No May have colour variations?	✓ Yes Unlike anyone else	✓ Yes We only install Ecobond materials
Is the surface approved for use under swings, roundabouts, and other high traffic areas?	X No Most others will suggest that you cannot do this and will exclude it from fair use	X No	✓ Yes Unlike anyone else	✓ Yes Warrantied performance – We only install Ecobond materials
Is the surface safe for use with young crawling children?	X No Most others will state that it is not	X No	✓ Yes See our test data sheet	✓ Yes We only install Ecobond materials
Is the surface highly resistant to vandalism?	X No Will depend on the variabilities with the granulate and binder used	X No	✓ Yes Our shred size and dedicated binder make it the most robust on the market	✓ Yes We only install Ecobond materials
Batch to batch consistency?	X No Can give different looks and performance each time	✓ Yes	✓ Yes Only possible with our controls	✓ Yes We only install Ecobond materials
Colour stability suitable for laying large areas in single colour?	X No Colours will vary for each batch	X No	✓ Yes Only possible with our controls	✓ Yes We only install Ecobond materials

Product support	Industry standard	Just Mulch	Ecobond	Gummbond
Will the manufacturer of the mulch support you in the event of a problem with or after install?	X No Other Rubber mulch suppliers do not have the experience of using it with a binder system	X No	✓ - Yes With full knowledge and experience	✓ Yes Warrantied performance – We only install Ecobond materials
Will the manufacturer of the binder support you in the event of a problem with or after install?	X No Other binder suppliers do not have the experience of using it with a rubber mulch system	X No	✓ - Yes With full knowledge and experience	✓ Yes Warrantied performance – We only install Ecobond materials
Will the installer accept responsibility for the rubber mulch and binder they use?	X Unknown Many installers will spot buy materials on a job by job basis, so results will vary	X Unknown	✓ - Yes Full material support, but no responsibility for the install	✓ Yes Warrantied performance – We only install Ecobond materials

We have an international business model, that can work with many different technical and safety specifications in many different countries.

Prior to setting up Ecosurface, rubber mulch often failed to perform as the materials were being derived from waste streams; produced by waste companies that had no interest in its end-use, and the installers had no way of controlling the specification of the materials they were being given.

Ecosurface set up from the start to look at the demands of the surface once it was installed and manage a controlled supply chain that can provide consistency and is reliable in every working condition.

So, whilst most other suppliers remain as either a producer or installer, Ecosurface are the only organisation in the industry that have full control of every aspect of the input material, processing, binder and in addition to supplying other professional 3rd party installers we can also install our own material with a meaningful 5 year warranty on its use.

Note that clients often take confidence in the knowledge that this is the only type of surfacing we work with and that we are responsible for 10s of 1000s of square meters every year and with our name on the warranty we must be getting it right!