

TECHNICAL BULLETIN

Naturally Durable Hardwood Decking vs. Composite Decking

| | <u>Naturally Durable Hardwood</u> | <u>Composite</u> |
|---|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <u>Appearance</u> | Natural | Artificial |
| <u>Durability</u> | | |
| Resistance to Rot | 25+ years in ground contact | Ground contact not allowed |
| Resistance to Wood Borer Attack | High | Unknown |
| <u>Technical Performance</u> | | |
| Bending Strength | High | Low |
| Hardness/Scratch and Impact Resistance | High | Medium |
| Historic Claims for Product Failure | No | Yes |
| <u>Maintenance</u> | | |
| Return to Original Condition if Damaged | Yes | No |
| Replacement or Add-On Color Matching | Yes | Subject to Color Discontinuation |
| Color Fade Repair | Yes | No |
| Burn Repair | Yes | No |
| Scratch Repair | Yes | No |
| <u>Health and Safety</u> | | |
| Heat Retention | Low | High |
| Resistance to Fire | High | Medium |
| Smoke Toxicity | Low | High |
| Slip Resistance | High | Medium |
| Off Gassing | Low | N/A |
| Electrical Conductivity | Low | N/A |
| Material Safety Data Sheet | Wood Dust Only | Varies by Manufacturer |
| <u>Environmental</u> | | |
| Material Type | Organic | Hybrid |
| Recyclable | Yes | No |
| Reusable | Yes | No |
| Renewable Resource Base | Yes - Forest | No - Petroleum |
| Production Energy Source | Production Waste / Sawdust | Electricity from Fossil Fuels |
| Use of Non-Organic Chemicals in Production | No | Yes |
| Use of Non-Organic Chemicals to Enhance Performance | No | Yes |
| Use of Post-Consumer Recycled Content in Production | No | Yes |
| End of Useful Life | Biodegradable | Non-Biodegradable |
| Life Cycle Cost Impact | Low | High |
| Life Cycle Environmental Impact | Low | High |