


DECKING PRODUCT COMPARISON

SPECIES	APPEARANCE/ FEEL	MAINTENANCE	EASE OF INSTALL	DECAY RESISTANCE	RESISTANCE TO INSECTS	SOURCE	ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT
 <p>NATURAL WOOD UN-NATURAL PERFORMANCE</p>	Surface stays smooth and resists scratches and dents. Unique grain structure and deep cocoa colour	Annual cleaning. If you wish to maintain colour, requires oiling, otherwise weathers to a beautiful silver patina	Lightweight and quick and clean sawing and shaping. Joint end matched and hidden clip system, no visible screws!	25 years +	High	Derived from North American forests	Absolutely no chemicals used in process, product is 100% natural, FSC certified and sustainably harvested.
IPE	No splinters, surface stays smooth and resists scratches	Annual cleaning. If you wish to maintain colour, requires oiling, otherwise weathers to a grey patina	Heavy, and extremely difficult to cut	22 years +	High	Tropical Rainforests of South America - majority from Brazil	Majority of products harvested using sustainable techniques, but still every second 1.5 acres of rain forest is lost, and with it, thousands of plants and animals living there
PRESSURE TREATED WOOD	Developes large splits, boards twist and cup. Greenish/ Purple bleeding over time.	High; sealing, staining and periodic sanding	More care required in fastening and joints to reduce cupping and warping. Need to wear dust masks, clean skin and work area extensively to avoid chemical hazards	Varies with quality	Varies with quality	Not location or species specific. Most commonly from North American Pine and Fir	Lumber is treated with chemical solutions that are carried deep into the wood via vacuum effects. Main chemicals used are copper, chromium and arsenic, all of which are toxic and leach into soil.
CALIFORNIA REDWOOD	Scratches and dentseasily; prone to splinters and warping	High; sealing, staining and periodic sanding	Ultra-lightweight and quick and clean sawing and shaping	10-15 years	Low	Western Coast of United States	Harvested mainly via FSC-Certified companies and sustainable forestry. Low environmental impact
WESTERN CEDAR	Scratches and dentseasily; prone to splinters and warping	High; sealing, staining and periodic sanding	Ultra-lightweight and quick and clean sawing and shaping	10-15 years	Low	Western Coast of North America	Harvested mainly via FSC-Certified companies and sustainable forestry. Very low environmental impact
COMPOSITE DECKING	Resistant to splinters and splits. Hot on feet, fades quickly over time	No oiling required, but does require regular washing to avoid mold and mildew build up	Less strong than wood so requires closer joist spacing. All sawdust and shavings must be collected in a drop cloth as they aren't biodegradable	25 years +	High	Varies in quality with vendor. Combination of virgin and some recycled plastic and petroleum products.	While plastic lumber products do contain SOME recycled material, it is a minority component. Most is produced using massive amounts of energy and virgin petroleum products. Plastic lumber does not biodegrade, and will sit in landfills forever.
SPECIE	WEIGHT (PER CU.FT.)	BENDING STRENGTH (psi)	MODULUS OF ELASTICITY (psi)	MAX. SHEAR STRENGTH	HARDNESS	FIRE RATING	DURABILITY CLASS
CFP HARDWOODS	39	14010	3200000	925	1320	B-C	1
IPE	69	25400	3140000	2060	3680	A	1
PRESSURE TREATED PINE	35	6800	1700000	1370	690	C-D	2
CALIFORNIA REDWOOD	30	7900	1000000	940	480	B-C	1
WESTERN CEDAR	30	14500	93000	900	580	B-C	2
COMPOSITE	60	3800	495000	561	1124	A-B	1