

Decking

A number of first-generation composite decking products had performance problems, particularly mold growth, because of their cellulose content. Decking made from cellular polyvinyl chloride addresses that problem by eliminating cellulose from the mix, but is more expensive to make. Manufacturers have found an attractive middle ground by wrapping conventional wood-plastic composites with another plastic, a protective cap, which improves scratch and stain resistance while protecting the composite boards from water. Capped composites can be manufactured less expensively than all-vinyl decking because the raw ingredients are less costly, and many in the industry predict that capped composites will continue to see double-digit growth, while the market share for basic uncapped composites will continue to decline. For now, though, wood decking still owns as much as 70% of the market (depending on who is keeping track). A key reason is cost: Standard pressure-treated wood has a huge price advantage over other types of decking. Plus, it's familiar to both homeowners and builders, and it's available just about anywhere.



Reversible Decking

Horizon decking is Fiberon's best capped composite. An outer plastic layer that Fiberon calls PermaTech covers the wood-plastic composite core, offering greater scratch and stain resistance. The decking, which is reversible, comes with either square edges or grooved ones for use with hidden fasteners. Boards are 0.9 inch thick and 5 1/2 inches wide and available in 12-, 16-, and 20-foot lengths. Fascia and riser material also is available. Horizon decking comes in five colors: rosewood, ipe, castle gray, Tudor brown, and greystone. It carries a 25-year warranty against stains and fading. Fiberon, 800.573.8841, fiberondecking.com



Cool PVC

Endeck Forest Series cellular PVC decking has a tough, proprietary outer shell that Enduris says resists stains and fading, provides excellent traction in wet or dry conditions, and remains cool in the sun. The compounds used to produce the decking give the boards a uniform cell structure and eliminate voids, the manufacturer says. Weighing in at only about 1 1/2 pounds per foot, boards are embossed with a wood-grain pattern and come in 12-, 16-, and 20-foot lengths and in six colors. Matching fascia also is available. Enduris, 888.329.7428, enduris.com



Pressure-Treated Pine

Recently relaunched by Universal Forest Products, ProWood pressure-treated wood now carries a limited lifetime warranty against fungal decay and termite damage. The wood is treated with micronized copper azole, which the company says gives wood a more natural look than other types of pressure treatment and is less corrosive to fasteners. The ProWood line includes dimensional lumber, decking, fencing, and railing. Options include a version that's kiln-dried after treatment and another that's treated with Dura Color, a pigmented waterborne preservative guaranteed not to fade for two years. Universal Forest Products, 800.598.9663, ufpi.com



Compression-Molded Decking

Tamko Building Products says its EverGrain composite decking is the only one on the market that's compression molded, a process that creates a deep grain pattern that doesn't repeat itself over the length of a board. A 20-year limited warranty against rotting, splintering, and termite damage covers both the decking and labor during the first five years. There are four colors—grey, walnut, auburn, and teak. On EverGrain Envision decking, an outer layer bonded to a composite core increases durability. It's available in five colors and can be installed with Tamko's EG 123 hidden fasteners. Tamko Building Products, 800.641.4691, tamko.com.



Thinner Trex

Trex Select is a wood-plastic composite capped with a proprietary layer of material. It's available with a wood-grain finish in five colors: redwood, dark gray, medium gray, light brown, and deep brown. The decking, which has a square edge profile, is 5 1/2 inches wide and 7/8 inch thick and comes in 12-, 16-, and 20-foot lengths. Also, Trex says, Select decking has a different grain pattern and comes in different colors than its other decking lines. Matching fascia comes in 1x8 and 1x12 boards. The decking has a 25-year limited residential warranty. Trex, 800.289.8739, trex.com



Tigerwood Decking

Tiger Deck's tigerwood decking is made from a South American hardwood of the genus *astronium* (also called *goncalo alves*). It has natural resistance to weather and decay and is sourced from sustainably managed forests, according to the company, with wood certified by the Forest Stewardship Council available on request. Tiger Deck says it has developed a drying schedule and grading practices that minimize the risk of checking, cracking, or cupping. Decking is dried to 8% moisture content and should last two to three times longer than North American softwood decking. Tiger Deck, 503.625.1747, tigerdeck.com



TimberTech Terrain

TimberTech has expanded its Earthwood Evolutions line of capped composite decking with three new colors—brown oak, sandy birch, and silver maple—in the lower-priced Terrain collection. The core of the decking is made from reclaimed wood fiber and a combination of recycled and virgin high-density polyethylene plastic, according to TimberTech. A scalloped underside reduces the amount of material in each board and allows the company to sell the decking for about 20% less than other Evolutions decking. Planks come with a grooved or solid profile, in lengths of 12, 16, and 20 feet. They are about 5 3/8 inches wide and 1 inch thick. Matching fascia is available. TimberTech, 800.307.7780, timbertech.com



Tiki Torch Color

A variegated light brown with reddish brown streaks, Tiki Torch is the eighth color in the Trex Transcend palette. The company says Transcend decking—a composite of wood flour and polypropylene, 95% of which is recycled—won't rot, warp, or crack. Its surface is designed to resist fading, scratching, and mold, and according to the company, food and drink spills can be washed off easily with soap and water. Planks come in 12-, 16-, and 20-foot lengths with two edge profiles: grooved and square. Matching 1x8 and 1x12 fascia boards are available. Trex, 800.289.8739, trex.com



Tough Membrane

Tufdek is designed for use as a waterproof walking surface on decks and patios, including rooftop decks. Installation (by authorized dealers only) includes filling surface imperfections with Tuff-Patch and bonding the membrane to the deck with a proprietary adhesive. The 66-mil membrane has four layers—two PVC films, a reinforcement ply, and a 6-mil Scuff-Guard wear layer on top—and comes in 11 solid and patterned surfaces. The company says it is burn- and flame-resistant, is UV-stabilized, and has biocides that help prevent mold and mildew. Tufdek, 877.860.9333, tufdek.com