

TECHNICAL BULLETIN

Naturally Durable Hardwood Decking vs. Composite Decking

	<u>Naturally Durable Hardwood</u>	<u>Composite</u>
	Natural	Artificial
<u>Appearance</u>		
<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	NA
Electrical Conductivity	Low	Medium
Material Safety Data Sheet	Wood Dust Only	Varies By Manufacturer
<u>Environmental</u>		
Material Type	Organic	Hybrid
Recyclable	Yes	No
Reusable	Yes	No
Recondition able	Yes	No
Renewable Resource Base	Yes	No
Sustainable 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	NA	No
Carbon Sequestering	Yes	No
End of useful life disposal	Biodegradable	Non-Biodegradable
Life Cycle Cost Impact	Low	High
Life Cycle Environmental Impact	Low	High