

Composite vs. Wood Comparison



Composite Decking



Pressure-Treated Wood Decking

Upfront Cost Higher initial investment, with minimal ongoing maintenance costs	Upfront Cost Lower upfront cost and typically the most budget-friendly decking option
Maintenance Routine cleaning with soap and water; no staining, painting or sealing required	Maintenance Requires periodic cleaning and sealing or staining to maintain its appearance
Look & Feel Realistic wood tones and grain with a consistent finish from board to board	Look & Feel Authentic natural wood with unique grain, knots and character in every board
Moisture & Rot Highly resistant to moisture, rot, insects and splintering	Moisture & Rot Pressure treatment helps protect against rot, decay and insect damage
Lifespan Designed for decades of service with very little maintenance	Lifespan Can provide many years of service when properly maintained and protected
Barefoot Comfort Smooth, splinter-free surface designed to stay that way as the decking ages	Barefoot Comfort Smooth when new, but can develop cracks and splinters as the wood weathers
Heat in Direct Sun Temperature varies by color and product; heat-reducing options are available	Heat in Direct Sun Natural wood generally stays cooler than many darker composite boards
Color & Finish Wide range of finished colors designed to resist fading without staining or refinishing	Color & Finish Can be painted or stained in a new color whenever you want a different look
Repairs Individual boards can be replaced, although older colors may be harder to match	Repairs Easy to cut, sand, repair and replace using readily available lumber
Warranty Long manufacturer warranties commonly cover structural performance, fading and staining	Warranty Coverage varies by manufacturer and typically focuses on rot and insect damage

Choose pressure-treated wood if you want the lowest upfront cost, prefer the look and feel of real wood, or value the flexibility to stain, refinish and repair it over time.

Choose composite decking if long-term durability, minimal maintenance and a smooth, splinter-free surface matter most.