

PROTECTING OUR ENVIRONMENT

Going Green With Redwood Decking

(NAPSA)—Many homeowners may be pleased and surprised to learn that some of the products that are friendliest to the environment come from the environment—and are available for their own houses.

Redwood is an excellent example, offering more environmental benefits than anything man-made—from how it's grown and harvested to how it can be reused and repurposed. Here, for instance, are four environmental benefits of redwood decking.

1. Redwood is grown green.

This species thrives along a narrow strip of land that hugs the Pacific coast in Northern California. The vast majority of old-growth coastal redwoods are forever protected within 450,000 acres of national, state and local forests and parks.

The land designated for commercial growth is subjected to the world's most stringent management and harvest practices. The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) requires private forestland owners to have harvest plans and management operations regularly audited. The FSC also sets standards relating to licensing and training forest managers as well as broad standards for forest resource conservation. One hundred percent of California Redwood Association member forestlands are certified well managed by the FSC.

2. Redwood traps carbon and never lets go. Redwood trees continuously scrub carbon from the air, retaining carbon in their wood fiber. Even better: That carbon remains trapped even after a redwood tree is harvested and milled for lumber. The average-size deck built of redwood is holding on to half a ton of carbon. A recent Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) documented that alternative plastic-based decking contributes to global warming, while redwood actually combats this climate change.

3. Redwood is naturally durable. Without any help from manufacturers, redwood's natural



Your home can be decked out in style and all the while, you can help the environment.

features reinforce the fact that this lumber is built to last. With a tight wood grain, a length of redwood lumber will hold its shape more consistently and is less prone to warping or cupping. Redwood is also naturally resistant to termites, decay and even fire.

4. A redwood deck could outlast your mortgage. The same natural features that give redwood its durability also mean redwood decks will hold a protective finish longer and withstand multiple refinishings over the years. With periodic cleaning and refinishing, a redwood deck can last 30 years or longer. Even when redwood is no longer useful as decking, homeowners can still recycle the decking to use in other landscaping projects or even shred it down to use as mulch.

Redwood is a smart choice for homeowners who want to live a more sustainable lifestyle. It is also a remarkable value, generally less costly to your wallet and the environment than plastic-based alternatives. With careful forest management, natural features that no manufacturer has been able to replicate, and incredible beauty, strength and durability, redwood proves you can improve your home but you can't improve on Mother Nature.

Learn More

The experts at the California Redwood Association, celebrating its 100th anniversary, can provide further facts and can be reached at www.realstrongredwood.com and (888) CAL-REDWOOD.