

Decked Out With Style

Outdoor Living, Indoor Style

(NAPSA)—The trend today is for decks that function as extensions of homes: comfortable, well-appointed outdoor rooms for eating, entertaining or simply unwinding. In fact, adding a deck can be a smart way to expand usable space without the time, expense or inconvenience of an interior remodel or addition. Here's more great news. Now you can forgo standard wood decking for something longer lasting and easier to maintain: capped composite decking. If you haven't looked at composite decking recently, you are in for a very pleasant surprise.

Thanks to ongoing advancements in technology, composite boards now bear a striking resemblance to genuine hardwoods. Gone is the manufactured look of earlier generations. Instead, the latest offerings have an elegant, understated appearance more akin to premium indoor flooring options.

For example, Fiberon Symmetry Decking uses a unique low-gloss formulation and micro-texturing process to create its signature matte finish. Adding to the "like-wood" appeal are natural, fluid grain patterns with no visible repeats or easy-to-discern patterns.

Plus, the Symmetry Decking colors are earthy and understated, well suited for any architecture or design preference.

With the option of a hidden fastener system, the decking can be installed without visible screws or nail heads, giving you a deck surface as smooth and barefoot friendly as your indoor floors (with no more nail pops).

One of the main reasons people buy composite decking is that it's low maintenance. As with pre-finished flooring, it's good to go right away. There's no need to stain the decking after it's installed and no reason you'll ever have to sand, restain or refinish the boards down the road—so you save time and money.

When it comes to durability, composites are hard to beat. Symmetry Decking features a solid core fused to a patented cap layer called PermaTech. The composite core prevents splintering, cracking, warping and rotting. The cap layer provides exceptional resistance to staining,



Composite decking can give you natural wood beauty without all the work.

fading, moisture and insect infestation—all common challenges with wood.

What about sustainability? Is composite decking really environmentally friendly? In a word, yes. No trees are ever felled to produce Fiberon decking. Instead, the company uses mainly recycled plastics and lumber mill scraps—enough to prevent 60,000 tons of waste from reaching landfills and incinerators each year. Sustainable manufacturing processes capture 98.5 percent of waste materials. A closed-loop water system prevents water discharge. What's more, composite decking lasts far longer than typical pressure-treated lumber. That means you won't be dismantling or disposing of your deck anytime soon—and the greenest deck is the one you don't have to replace.

When it comes to building a beautiful, long-lasting, low-maintenance outdoor space, consider Fiberon capped composite decking. To learn more, visit www.fiberondecking.com.

Dress up your deck

Here are some quick tips for giving your deck a designer's touch.

Amp up the color: New seat cushions and pillows are an easy way to

incorporate color and give your space an instant update. For a more cohesive look, incorporate matching place mats, candleholders and other accessories. Change color schemes to suit the season, holiday or a specific event. When the temperatures start to dip, don't head inside. Simply add some colorful, cozy throws—a beautiful and practical way to extend the decking season.

Master multitasking: Storage boxes are excellent for keeping your colorful new accessories clean and dry. Look for sturdy ones with flat tops and you'll have instant side tables or extra seating for your next party.

Light up the night: Don't overlook lighting when planning your deck. Lighting adds ambiance and ensures safer footing for you and your guests. Fiberon has options for rail posts, stair risers, even the edge of your deck. Here's a bright idea for lighting up your dining area: String white lights around the edges or inside of your table's umbrella. For a quick centerpiece, arrange candles of varying heights on a platter or tray. Add seasonal items such as pumpkins, gourds or pinecones for added interest. Always ensure lighting is safe for outside use and never leave lit candles unattended.