

# Decked Out with Style

## Homeowners Enjoy Expanded Outdoor Space

(NAPSA)—Homeowners have discovered that one of the simplest ways to expand a home's square footage is to take it outside. Adding a deck also provides the best financial return on investment in a home—letting homeowners recoup between 70 and 100 percent of their deck costs when the home is sold.

When choosing decking material, consider the climate, taking into account such factors as humidity and temperature. Traditional decks consist of natural wood, which needs to be annually maintained by the homeowner. Every year, three million decks are replaced or repaired due to poor maintenance, with each bill exceeding \$500.

### Trends in deck design

Composite decking, which is made from a blend of recycled plastics and wood fibers, is the latest trend. Composite decking leaves homeowners with more time to enjoy their deck because they don't require annual staining and sealing plus composite decking doesn't splinter. With recent improvements in the look of the product, more than 25 percent of homeowners are switching to composite decking. For example, Veranda™ decking, available at The Home Depot, has recently introduced reversible composite decking boards that feature the beauty of wood or the clean look of a textured finish. Veranda's reversible decking comes in three colors: slate grey, buff cedar and cascade redwood.

### When planning a deck, consider multilevels, best size

Whether you are reboarding your current deck or building a



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new one, you should first, develop the deck layout and decide on size. This includes the option of multilevels, built-in benches, wrap-around decks, steps and railings. Make sure the deck you have in mind suits the size and style of your home. Outdoor rooms should measure about the same size as the largest indoor room.

### Coordinated railings further enhance any deck design

Deck railings are the most prominent visual element in a deck. Varying the dimensions and direction can add character. Railings can be the same color as the deck, a coordinating wood color or a contrasting white color. Many homeowners prefer composite railings because components cut and install like wood but won't warp nor require extra maintenance. Veranda composite railing comes in a variety of colors and designs to meet the style and design needs of any backyard.

Built-in benches can also serve as both a railing and a bench when placed along the edge of the deck.