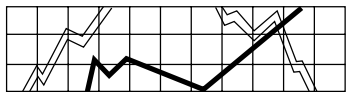


Home Design Trends



Make Your Dream Deck A Reality

(NAPSA)—Many homeowners like the idea of bringing comfort outdoors with a classy deck. Whether you're looking for a spot to relax or fire up the grill for some outdoor dining, a deck is often the answer. As a natural extension of the home, decks are the perfect gathering place for family and friends.

Deck designs range from a simple outdoor platform to a multi-level expanse. Your dream deck doesn't have to be a nightmare to pay for, however. You can start with something simple and expand it later. At any time, you can also add such amenities as built-in planters, seating and trellises.

Before starting construction of any deck project, be sure to verify local building code requirements.

Material Suggestions

When it comes to what material to use, a good choice is Southern Pine. It's available in a wide variety of grades, sizes and patterns and can be finished with water-repellent sealers, paints or stains.

Pressure-treated Southern Pine is not only attractive and inviting to people, it's made to resist decay and insect attack for decades. This material has long been known for its strength, treatability and beauty.



When built with treated wood, a deck can add to both the beauty and value of your home.

Maintenance Tips

Once your deck is complete, it will require some simple maintenance just like any other part of your house. Allow the wood to acclimate to weather conditions, then apply a water-repellent sealer to all exposed wood surfaces. This sealer will help control surface checking and provide an attractive appearance. Over time, reapplication of a sealer is recommended, perhaps every year or two. Be sure the wood is dry before applying any sealer, stain or other kind of finish.

More Information

For more information about deck design and treated Southern Pine, contact the Southern Pine Council, Box 641700, Kenner, LA 70064. Or, visit the council's web site at www.southernpine.com for deck plans and more helpful tips.