

Composite Decks Easy To Maintain

(NAPSA)—If you're planning on adding a deck to your home, you're in good company: three million decks are built, repaired or replaced each year, according to CertainTeed Corporation, one of America's leading manufacturers of innovative building products.

Before you choose pressure-treated wood or other deck lumber, consider using a composite product. Driven by the rising costs and high maintenance requirements of natural wood, composites are gaining in popularity as an alternative material for decks, railing, around pools and for other outdoor living uses.

Unlike wood, composites won't rot or decay and don't have cracks, splinters or knots. Composites are made with recycled plastic mixed with sawdust, usually a hardwood such as oak or maple. One choice is CertainTeed's Boardwalk, the only composite decking and railing made with EcoTech™, a patent-pending material that combines PVC (post-industrial recycled "regrind" from vinyl siding, windows and pipe operations) with recycled natural fibers.

Pressure-treated wood has chemical preservatives, many of which are toxic, explains John Pruett, marketing manager. "Boardwalk doesn't. It requires no paint, stain or water sealant, so it is virtually maintenance free. And it looks better, longer." In three years, says Pruett, a composite deck or railing will pay for itself since the homeowner won't have to spend money on additional materials or repairs to maintain it.

And as the temperatures rise, your feet will stay cool on a composite deck. Composite decking is barefoot friendly with a skid-resistant surface, providing outstand-



Decks made with composite materials, such as Boardwalk Composite Decking and Railing, are gaining in popularity.

ing traction and slip resistance.

Easy to install with ordinary woodworking tools, Boardwalk can be used for decks, railings, stairs, walkways, planters and benches; its use is limited only by "the imagination of the homeowner," Pruett continues.

Rick Shore Builders agrees. The Brooklyn, Mich.-based company creates custom decks, and is always on the lookout for ways to make their projects cutting edge, says Shore. "CertainTeed offers the best material. Boardwalk's rounded edge looks so much better, is easier to handle and cut, and screws don't mushroom. Plus, homeowners love it: it's beautiful. It's more dense, and doesn't have pits on the surface, so it stays clean and mildew free."

For more information on composite decking and railing, visit www.certainteed.com or call 1-800-782-8777.