



DUNCAN
SEAWALL, DOCK & BOAT LIFT

Docks

The ultimate guide to the best materials and products for your new dock

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How to Choose the Best Materials for Your Dock Project

Excited about your upcoming dock project? Well, before you break ground, one of the most important factors in such big projects is ensuring that you utilize the



best marine construction materials for the project at hand. Choosing the right marine construction materials will result in an aesthetically pleasing result that is proven to withstand the years and harsh conditions. To help you get a better grip on how to choose the best materials for your dock project in Venice, FL, consider the following advantages and disadvantages of some of the more popular materials:

Vinyl based boards (like Azek decking)

Advantages:

Azek and similar vinyl based materials require very minimal maintenance and upkeep. Their nonporous makeup means that mold and mildew won't buildup, and general dirt can be swiftly swept away.

In addition, because the color of these boards are solid all the way through, surface scratches and gouges are rendered near invisible.

Disadvantages:

The superior quality and long lasting properties of Azek decking does come at a bit higher price point, but, it's low maintenance factor means you can recoup those costs in the long term.

Composite planks

Advantages:

Composite planks are similarly low maintenance, although not quite as much as Azek decking as they are prone to mildew stains. However, a big positive of composite is that it doesn't warp or give the owner unsightly mushrooming where screws are laid in. It's also a long lasting product that is relatively cheap.

Disadvantages:

There's the possibility of mildew stains when not properly maintained and the potential for peeling during sanding or pressure washing that may make this a no go choice for some Venice Beach, FL homeowners.

Pressure treated wood

Advantages:

Very budget friendly. For about a 300 sq. ft. project, you can expect to spend a lot less on treated wood compared to composite boards. Pressure treated lumber also has flexibility on its side that it can be cut and stained to meet the unique needs of your marine construction design.

Disadvantages:

Unfortunately, while it is very attractively cheap upfront, there's significant upkeep costs with pressure treated wood docks and decking. You'll have to anticipate refinishing these marine construction materials every two to three years with the expectation that the entire dock or deck might only have a lifespan of between 10 and 20 years (depending on the upkeep factor).

Trex Decking

If you are looking to install or upgrade your dock, beach walkover or even your upland deck, Trex decking is a great solution offered by Duncan Seawall. Duncan Seawall is a



Trex Pro Platinum Dealer which is the highest level of recognition for a Trex independent contractor. Trex offers a wide variety of composite decking ranging from their Trex Select series to their Top of the line Trex Transcend series that outperforms all other decking.

Trex decking is guaranteed not to fade, stain, scratch or grow mold for a minimum of 25 years. Trex decking is available in a wide assortment of rich, natural looking colors to match your outside décor.



[Click here](#) to view our selection of Genuine Trex Decking.

Azek Building Products

Are you looking for an easily maintainable decking for your new deck, dock or patio? Azek decking is a great choice for low maintenance decking.

Unlike other decking made of wood or composite, Azek decking is constructed out of cellular polyvinyl chloride (PVC), which requires very low maintenance. Azek decking is highly resistant to mold, stains and scratching, and offers an extensive collection of decking colors and designs able to suit your style.

Duncan Seawall is one of southwest Florida's largest Azek installers that will ensure you get the decking you want and installed with the highest level of quality and professionalism.



[Click here](#) to view our selection of Azek decking.

Florida Deck Rebuilding vs Resurfacing

So you've already enjoyed years of benefits from your Florida deck, with plenty of family barbecues and sunset hangouts along the way. Unfortunately, such enjoyment often does quite the wear and tear on most decks,



especially wooden ones, and as your Florida deck begins showing its age you're likely to wonder whether it's time to resurface or rebuild.

Trex decking is one of the best materials you can use to both rebuild or resurface an older wooden deck. Resurfacing by putting on fresh Trex deck boards over your current studs is a great way to rejuvenate the look of your deck, and as an extension the whole of your backyard, without making too costly an investment. After all, why not work with and improve what you already have?

The Best Reasons to Resurface:

Flexibility to focus.

Maybe you just want to add a more contemporary style of railing, or want to enjoy the smoother finish of Trex decking boards. If your main goal is focusing on minor repairs and additions, then resurfacing is a great way to keep what's great and just improve upon it.

Big savings.

Resurfacing with Trex decking is an ideal way to save money while still putting new life into your outdoor addition. Plus, while you enjoy savings in the short-term, the fresh look will also go a long ways in boosting your home's overall value.

However, if what you have isn't looking too good- maybe you're dealing with soft spots and rotten timber supports- then it might be time to consider tearing out the whole deck and rebuilding with more reliable Trex decking. If you have the time and the money, then we recommend getting rid of all of the questionable old boards and starting fresh with Trex decking.

The Best Reasons to Rebuild:

Complete freedom to redesign.

Once you've set your old wooden boards ablaze in a farewell bonfire, you can start with whole new design possibilities. Maybe you want a wider deck to make room for that new grille, or perhaps you're thinking about adding a curved railing for a more cohesive look. Whatever your desire, it's not a problem as this is your opportunity to redesign and rebuild.

Stronger from the ground up.

If you have any questionable framing materials, then you'll want to do a complete rebuild. Even the highest quality deck rails will fail if they're mounted to rotten framing.

9 Key FAQs When Building a Trex Deck

A backyard deck is a terrific addition for any home as it both improves the function and aesthetics of a property. But as with most home improvements, there are a variety of options for you to choose from. One of the more popular options growing among new deck owners is Trex decking. This eco-friendly option is quickly gaining momentum across the country, and for good reasons.



Here's a quick FAQ on building with Trex decking:

What is Trex decking?

Trex is comprised of 95 percent recycled materials including, reclaimed wood, sawdust, and plastics.

Is Trex decking better than a wooden deck?

Trex outdoor products offer greater durability and performance that isn't possible with wood. This means a deck that won't rot, warp, splinter, or succumb to termite and other wood-eating insect damage.

How heavy are Trex deck products?

Trex boards are 50 to 70% heavier than standard lumber.

Why is Trex more expensive than a wooden deck if it's recycled material?

The recycled materials that go into manufacturing Trex products are all carefully processed to ensure quality and products capable of withstanding more rigorous use than wood.

What's the lifetime value of a Trex deck?

While Trex decks do cost more upfront, they are low-maintenance and don't require any sanding, painting, or staining. This means reduced maintenance costs in the long term (and with its extended lifespan, that adds up to a huge lifetime value).

What colors and styles are available?

Trex outdoor products are designed to give a natural appearance and come in a great variety of colors, textures, and woodgrains. Choose from a more natural color like walnut or teak, or go with a stained gray look to match your home's facade.

How do I clean a Trex deck?

Cleaning has never been easier! Simply use soap and water to get your decking looking as good as it was new.

Do Trex decks get hotter than pressure-treated wood in direct sunlight?

While most any surface is apt to get uncomfortably hot underneath a blazing summer sun, extensive studies have shown that pressure-treated wood gets hotter than Trex products. For extra precaution, choose lighter colored boards to reduce how much heat gets retained.

Can Trex decking and railings be curved?

Yes, Trex offers unique curves and framings to give your house a unique look.

Why a Trex Composite Marine Deck is a Green Deck

If you're thinking about having a deck built, Trex composite decking is choice that offers many practical advantages in terms of maintenance, appearance, and durability. In addition, you'll be making an environmentally-friendly choice with Trex. It's made with 95 percent recycled material, using some of the most eco-friendly manufacturing processes possible.



The company is a member of the U.S. Green Building Council and has employed green principles for over 20 years. It even sponsors a recycling program that allows communities and schools to earn prizes and awards for donating unwanted plastics. Being green is far more than a trend with Trex – it's a part of the company's DNA.

Trex composite decking is eco-friendly in the following ways:

Recycled Wood

No tree is ever cut down to make Trex decking. Instead, the company utilizes a product that would otherwise end up in a landfill – locally sourced reclaimed wood.

Recycled Plastic Film

Trex is one of the largest recyclers of plastic bags in the U.S. Its decking material is partially made from products such as sandwich and grocery bags, and if you have a 500 square foot Trex composite deck, you've helped keep 140,000 plastic bags from the landfill!

Earth-friendly Manufacturing

The company is at the forefront of earth-friendly manufacturing, even operating trailers on vegetable-based oil hydraulics. It also reduces fuel consumption as well as CO2 emissions at its factories and recycles nearly all of its runoff and waste.

In addition to being green, Trex composite decking is a beautiful material that requires only occasional soap and water or power washing to stay looking its best.





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Your Dock Deserves the Best Materials

Stop by Duncan Seawall, Dock,
and Boat Lift today to visit our
show room and compare the
best dock materials.

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