

DECKING MATERIALS



CAPPED COMPOSITE

The ultimate in backyard decking, capped composite is wrapped in a tough-as-nails finish that keeps the beauty in and the work out.

PROS

- + Soap-and-water maintenance
- + Fade, stain, scratch and mold resistant
- + Natural wood-grain finish and rich color
- + Earth friendly
- + Fade and stain warranties

CONS

- Often costlier board-for-board



PVC (VINYL)

All plastic material with no organic content makes it easy to maintain.

PROS

- + Fade, stain, scratch and mold resistant
- + Low maintenance
- + Finished look without painting

CONS

- Tends to squeak and get chalky
- Not earth friendly
- Costlier board-for-board



EARLY-GENERATION COMPOSITE

Your original wood-alternative board. Part wood, part plastic, all easygoing.

PROS

- + Won't rot or splinter
- + A great, durable value
- + Earth friendly

CONS

- Can fade and stain
- Requires periodic cleaning with deck wash
- Susceptible to scratches



WOOD

For the purist, a wood deck is real and natural, with a pleasing heft.

PROS

- + Traditional, one-with-nature feel
- + Affordable board-for-board
- + Easy to work with, easy to source

CONS

- Rots, splits, swells, twists, fades
- Contributes to deforestation
- One word: splinters
- Pressure-treating chemicals are toxic
- Requires painting, staining or sealing



FRAMING | DECKING | RAILING | LIGHTING | FASCIA | STORAGE | FURNITURE | PERGOLA | DRAINAGE



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5 THINGS TO CONSIDER WHEN CHOOSING YOUR DECKING AND RAILING



1 DECKING & RAILING MATERIALS *What's it made of?*

The longevity of any deck depends on its materials. Consider your material choices for both decking and railing in terms of look, durability and cost. See full material breakdown on the following panels.

2 MAINTENANCE *How much upkeep are we talking?*

The cost of maintaining and replacing less durable materials can really add up. Over time, weekend-filling chores like power washing, water sealing and staining mean a lot of money and time wasted. Often, in five to ten years' time, the relative costs even out.

3 BEAUTY *Lots of design options?*

Some materials enable customized designs—everything from curves to multiple colors and wood grain patterns—while others are more limited in scope. When choosing a material, it's helpful to keep your priorities in mind: are you looking for great design options, the best value or maybe a product that offers both?

4 LABOR *How difficult is installation?*

The cost of building a deck can be 40-60% labor, so it's important to consider whether or not this is a DIY project, or one best left to the pros. Same goes for railing: will you customize and install it yourself or use a contractor?

When making the decision, remember that some materials are more labor intensive than others. For instance, PVC often requires special tools whereas wood and composite don't.

5 R.O.I. *What's it worth when I move?*

Some materials add more value and joy to a home than others. The more carefree and eco-friendly the decking and railing, the more attractive it is to potential home buyers...that is, if you can ever dream of moving.

RAILING MATERIALS



HIGH-PERFORMANCE COMPOSITE
The ultimate combination of beauty and performance that offers myriad design options to complement any house or deck.

PROS

- + Widest variety of colors, components and styles
- + Can be curved for dramatic results
- + Never needs sanding or refinishing
- + Often protected by multi-decade warranties
- + Cleans easily with soap and water or a pressure washer

CONS

- Higher initial cost than most other options



PVC (VINYL)
A simple look for a sharp, clean finish.

PROS

- + Basic color scheme complements many homes
- + More affordable than composite
- + Insect resistant
- + Splinter free
- + Soap-and-water cleaning

CONS

- Not as natural looking
- Tends to develop a chalky finish



ALUMINUM
Sleek yet sturdy railing that knows how to get out of the way.

PROS

- + Powder coating retains color and resists corrosion
- + Possesses unparalleled strength with minimal geometry
- + Longer spans enable a less-impeded view
- + Fire, mold and mildew resistant
- + No splintering, cracking or warping
- + Soap-and-water cleaning

CONS

- A less natural aesthetic than wood or composite



EARLY-GENERATION COMPOSITE
Beautiful earth tones blend with durability to create subtle looks you'll love.

PROS

- + Offers a variety of colors
- + Won't warp, splinter or rot
- + No painting, no staining
- + Often protected by multi-year warranties

CONS

- May fade or stain over time
- Sometimes requires deck cleaner



SPECIALTY METALS
Cable, stainless steel, iron...so many options to reflect your vision.

PROS

- + Durable materials are sturdy and strong
- + Unique styles allow for custom designs

CONS

- Custom builds can make it more expensive
- Often reserved for niche applications



WOOD
A traditionalist's dream.

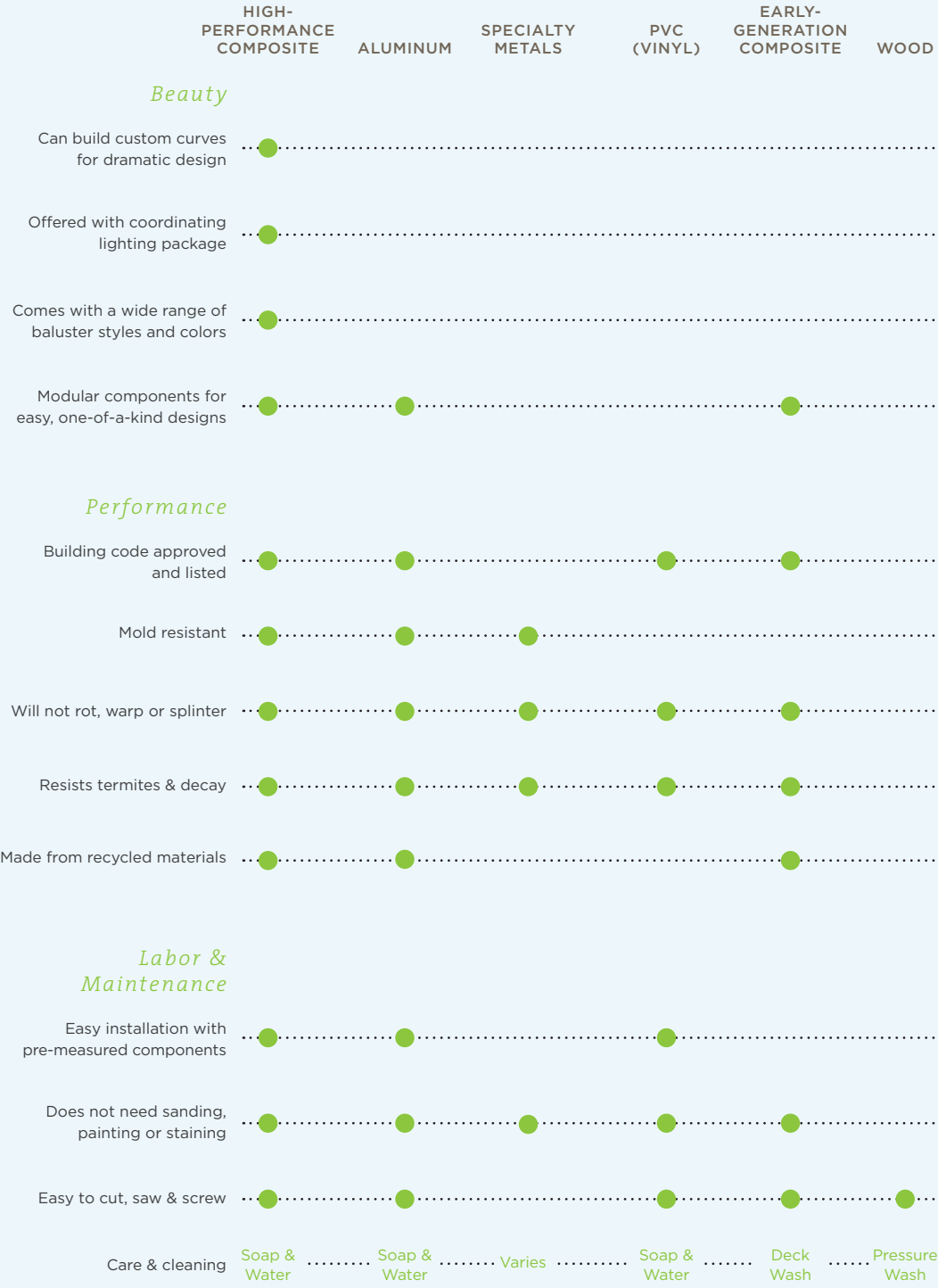
PROS

- + A time-honored, natural aesthetic
- + Hand-crafted custom options also available

CONS

- Style options limited to the basics
- Will fade, warp, splinter, rot, split and twist
- Requires regular maintenance: staining, painting or sanding

RAILING



DECKING

