

**E-ZDECK®**  
PULTRONEX CORP.



**Finally, a maintenance free Deck That gives you Beauty & Strength and Adds Value to Your Home ...**

High-strength composite boards that will not warp, split or crack. **E-ZDECK®** is easy to care for and is designed for many years of maintenance-free service. Use **E-ZDECK®** for renovation or new applications. Backed by a lifetime limited warranty.

**End Paint or Stain Drudgery ...**

No painting required: a color-fast integral pigment is distributed evenly through the material. Available in your choice of three attractive colors: Arctic White, Classic Grey and Sandalwood Brown.

**Safe on Your Feet ...**

**E-ZDECK®**'s clean finish has no surface nails or screws to 'pop up' or rust.

**Easy to Install ... It's A Snap**

4 easy steps—no special tools required.

- Complete matching deck and handrail system.
- **E-ZDECK®** uses a conventional wood substructure.

Call our toll-free number  
**1-800-990-3099**

E-Mail: [ezdeck@zcl.com](mailto:ezdeck@zcl.com)  
Website: [www.ezdeck.com](http://www.ezdeck.com)

designwatch

Beyond pure plastic is the hybrid world of Trex Easy Care Decking, a simulated lumber formed from recycled plastic grocery bags and waste wood. Heavier and denser than wood, Trex is still worked with the same tools and installed in the same manner, and will even accept paints and stains if desired, though they are not necessary. Trex's standard colors, a deep brown or a tan, will weather, like wood, to a deep gray. All the maintenance issues are similar to the plastic lumber, though Trex, due to its partial wood content, will undergo slight thermal expansion and contraction.

Environmentally, all the above materials can be seen as beneficial in one way or another. Plastic lumber and Trex use recycled materials that would otherwise be put into landfills, and the long life of these products means they won't be deposited there later on. And all three leave

the forest untouched. They may be slightly more expensive than wood initially, but the long-term savings in maintenance and labor almost certainly make up for the extra cost.

But what they also have in common is the fact that they aren't wood, and therefore don't necessarily look like it, either. While some products are textured or colored to resemble wood, others don't even try, preferring to emulate the clean lines and profile of the real thing without regard to close-up similarities. It's up to the end user to decide whether the lack of realism outweighs the product's other attributes.

If wood is what you're after, a new option to consider is Iron Wood. This is a class of hardwood that offers many of the same benefits as synthetic materials, including resistance to moisture, rot, splintering and decay, while still being

**Sticking with cedar? Here's how to prolong the life of your deck.**

James Forslund of Bellevue's Forslund Woodworking Company maintains that a fine wood deck gives a home a certain mystique. And he believes that with the proper construction techniques and attention to detail, the classic wood deck can be a lifetime addition to a home. It all begins, simply, with the wood.

"I only use the highest-quality clear heartwood for the decks I build," states Forslund. By using wood from the densest, knot-free part of the tree, regardless of the type of wood, you are ensuring the wood will be rich in the oils that aid resistance to weather and rot. And the wood must be properly dried before being sealed.

In addition to clear wood for the decking surfaces, Jim Chmelik of Chesky Construction recommends using all pressure-treated materials for framing and using a clear-coat sealer capable of protecting the wood from harmful UV rays.

And don't skimp on the fasteners, either, advises Forslund, who recommends stainless-steel screws (pre-drilled and countersunk). "Spending at construction will save you from having to redo your deck every 10 years," he says. Under-deck fasteners, such as the EB-TY biscuit system, may extend deck life by removing weather influences, but are also significantly more expensive.

Good carpentry is always important; keeping the deck level and square will prevent twisting and buckling. Ventilation and drainage can minimize the impact of the elements. Space boards about 1/8 of an inch apart to allow water and conifer needles to pass through. And the farther away from the ground the deck can be, the better, as air circulation around and under the deck aids in drying. Also, Forslund recommends laying a few inches of pea gravel on the ground under the deck to reduce ambient moisture.