

# DECKING COMPARISON CHART

	BLACK LOCUST	SASSAFRAS	IPE AND OTHER TROPICAL HARDWOODS	THERMALLY / CHEMICALLY MODIFIED	COMPOSITE PRODUCTS	PRESSURE TREATED SOFTWOOD DECKING
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT	<b>LOWEST</b> Quick growth and fast reproduction, 40 years average age to harvest a lumber producing tree.	<b>LOW</b> Quick growth and fast reproduction. A pioneer species.	<b>HIGHEST</b> Unsustainable. Trees take Hundreds of years to reach lumber-producing size. No proven re-growth plan with extinction looming.	<b>HIGH</b> Complicated and energy intensive process to modify natural wood, often using acetic anhydride.	<b>HIGH</b> Heavy utilization of petroleum, plastics, glues, and energy used in manufacturing.	<b>HIGH</b> Sustainable with proper forestry management, but heavy chemicals used to treat the wood.
DURABILITY	<b>HIGHEST</b> Naturally rot resistant.	<b>HIGH</b> Naturally rot resistant.	<b>HIGHEST</b> Naturally rot resistant.	<b>MODERATE</b> Will rot near or in the ground and susceptible to insects.	<b>MODERATE</b> Rot resistant due to plastic and chemical fibers.	<b>LOWEST</b> Short-term rot resistance due to chemical treatments.
LIFESPAN	<b>LONGEST</b> 30+ years.	<b>LONG</b> 20+ years.	<b>LONGEST</b> 30+ years.	<b>MEDIUM</b> 10+ years.	<b>LONG</b> 20+ years.	<b>SHORTEST</b> 10 years or less.
MAINTENANCE	<b>LOWEST</b> Optional finishing to keep color rich.	<b>LOWEST</b> Optional finishing to keep color rich.	<b>LOWEST</b> Optional finishing.	<b>HIGH</b> Often needs re-sanding and acetic anhydride requires anti-fungal treatment.	<b>HIGH</b> Staining not needed; but constant treatment required for mold and dirt.	<b>HIGHEST</b> Annual cleaning, sanding, sealing required.
APPEARANCE	<b>GOOD</b> Tight grained, golden to brown, excellent detail.	<b>GOOD</b> Straight grained, with a light brown color, excellent detail.	<b>GOOD</b> Tight grained, usually brown, excellent detail.	<b>MODERATE</b> Fades quickly and susceptible to staining.	<b>MODERATE</b> Variable, but artificial appearance; limited grain detail.	<b>POOR</b> Appearance lasts only a few years.
STRENGTH (MAX CRUSHING STRENGTH AND JANKA HARDNESS)	<b>HIGH</b> 10,180 MCS 1,700 Janka	<b>MEDIUM</b> 4,800 MCS 630 Janka	<b>HIGHEST</b> 13,000 MCS 3,600 Janka	<b>LOW</b> 7,500 MCS 350 to 500 Janka	<b>LOWEST</b> 1,588 MCS 550 Janka	<b>LOW</b> 2,000 MCS 690 Janka
COST	<b>\$\$\$</b>	<b>\$\$</b>	<b>\$\$\$\$-\$\$\$</b>	<b>\$\$\$\$-\$\$\$</b>	<b>\$\$\$\$-\$\$</b>	<b>\$</b>



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