



THE HOMEOWNER GUIDES / WOOD DECKING MATERIALS

WOOD DECKING OPTIONS.

REAL WOOD. KNOW THE TRADE-OFFS.



Wood decks bring a natural look and feel. Species differ in cost, hardness and how much care they ask for each year. Here is how the common choices compare.

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01 / AT A GLANCE

THE OPTIONS SIDE BY SIDE.

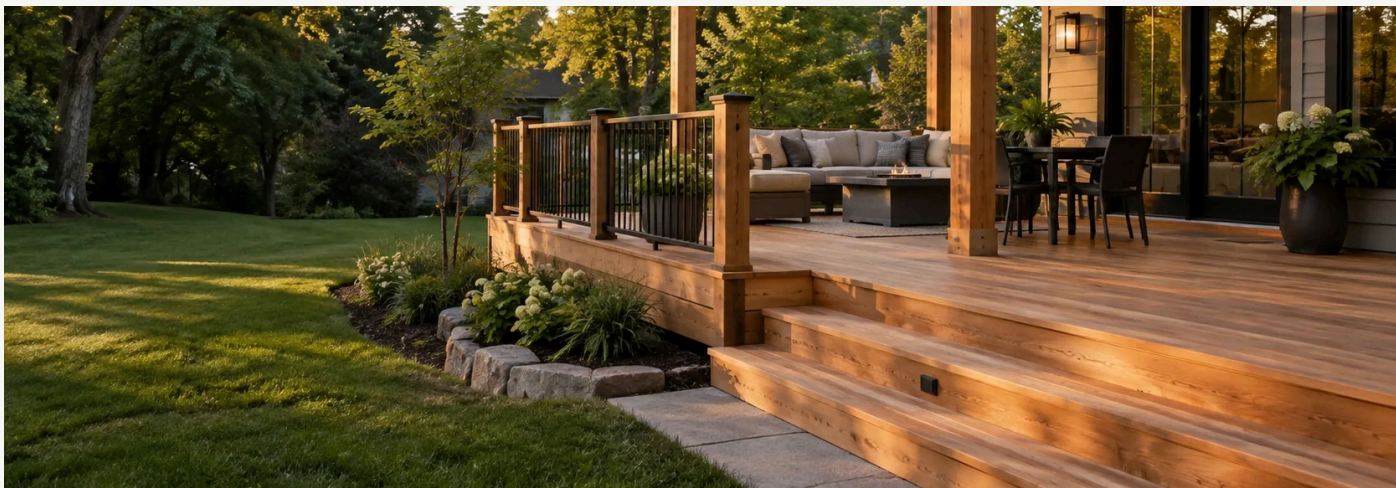
A quick comparison of look, upkeep and relative material cost. Cost is general and relative. Your quote depends on the project.

MATERIAL	LOOK	UPKEEP	RELATIVE COST
PRESSURE-TREATED PINE	Green to tan, takes stain	Higher	\$
CEDAR	Warm red-brown, aromatic	Moderate to higher	\$\$
THERMALLY MODIFIED	Rich brown, uniform	Moderate	\$\$\$
TROPICAL HARDWOOD	Dense, deep brown	Moderate	\$\$\$\$

02 / HOW TO COMPARE

WHAT TO WEIGH.

■ FINISH PLAN	Every wood deck needs a stain, sealer or oil to hold its color. Decide how often you will refinish.
■ HARDNESS	Softer woods dent and show wear faster from furniture, pets and snow shovels.
■ CHECKING AND MOVEMENT	Wood swells and shrinks with moisture. Small cracks and some cupping are normal.
■ WEATHERING	Unfinished wood turns silver gray over time. Some owners like that look.



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03 / MATERIAL BY MATERIAL

KNOW WHAT YOU ARE CHOOSING.

What each option is, where it works best and what to keep in mind before you decide.

■ PRESSURE-TREATED PINE

Pine treated with preservatives to resist rot and insects.

GOOD FOR Framing and budget decks you plan to stain.

KEEP IN MIND Needs time to dry before staining. Expect checking.

■ THERMALLY MODIFIED

Wood heated in a controlled process to improve stability.

GOOD FOR A chemical-free option with good stability.

KEEP IN MIND Can be more brittle. Follow fastening guidance.

■ CEDAR

A naturally rot-resistant softwood with a warm color.

GOOD FOR Homeowners who want real wood with a classic look.

KEEP IN MIND Softer surface. Plan for regular cleaning and finish.

■ TROPICAL HARDWOOD

Very dense species such as ipe.

GOOD FOR Long-lasting surfaces with a high-end look.

KEEP IN MIND Heavy and hard to work. Ask about sourcing and lead time.

SEE IT BEFORE YOU CHOOSE IT.

Ask to see full-size samples outdoors in daylight. Screens and printed pages never show color and texture exactly.



04 / COLOR AND FINISH

PICK A FINISH TONE.

Swatches show approximate tone families only. Colors vary by brand, product line and light, so final choices come from physical samples.



CLEAR NATURAL



CEDAR TONE



SEMI-TRANSPARENT
BROWN



WEATHERED SILVER



SOLID GRAY



SOLID BLACK

05 / YOUR NEXT STEP

LET'S BUILD IT.

Still deciding? Call us. We will talk through the options for your wood decking project, the look you want and the upkeep you are comfortable with.

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BASED IN

Janesville, Wisconsin

This guide is for planning. Product availability, specifications and warranties come from each manufacturer, and the requirements for your property need to be confirmed separately.

A phone call or callback request is not a booked appointment or an approved estimate. Photos are concept imagery, not Ironwood projects.