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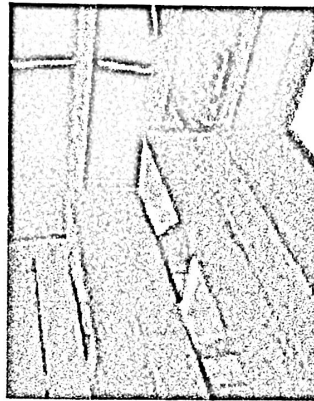
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Ipe decking

- Made from the ipe tree.
- Very long-lasting natural wood decking; more rot-resistant than second-growth cedar or redwood.
- Knot-free. Looks like teak, but harvesting doesn't wreck rain forests.
- Needs no sealer or finish. Will weather to gray.
- A premium product, comparable in price to clear cedar and redwood.

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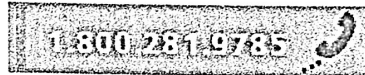
Types available

Deck boards

1x4, 1x6, 1x8 and 1x10 in lengths of 8, 10, 12, 14 and 16 ft. Cost is about \$4 to \$6 a square foot, depending on current lumber prices, board size and the size of the order.

Supports, balusters, etc.

2x2, 2x4, 2x6, 2x8, 2x10 and 2x12.



More about ipe decking

IronWoods is the trade name used by our supplier for wood from the South American ipe tree. Ipe is an extremely dense hardwood that is close to seven times harder and almost four times stronger than red cedar, another popular decking material. Ipe is dimensionally stable and resists twisting and warping. It will remain smooth, splinter-free and friendly to bare feet for years. The wood we sell is premium, knot-free heartwood.

IronWoods is not certified through the [Forest Stewardship Council](#). However, our supplier does participate in the Fields to Forests Tropical Reforestation Program, a Milwaukee-based organization (www.fieldstoforests.org) endorsed by the Rainforest Alliance. Our supply of ipe wood comes from Brazil, where the tree thrives.

Ipe is strong, so deck builders can often use less wood in the support structure. With a bending strength of just over 25,000 pounds, an ipe 1x4 deck board can span joists 24 inches apart and still carry a live load of 100 pounds per square foot.

For the decking support structure, we generally recommend a less expensive option—our [ACQ pressure-treated lumber](#), which has been treated to resist insect and fungi attack. It is just as durable as ordinary pressure-treated lumber but free of arsenic and chromium, two highly toxic materials.

Ipe has a beautiful, teak-like, deep brown color when freshly milled. Cut ends should be sealed immediately after cutting using a clear wax to reduce end checking. We sell Anchor Seal for this purpose. The decking itself needs no finish to remain durable or splinter-free. If untreated, it will weather to a uniform silver patina. Customers interested in preserving the natural color can call us to order [Bio-Wash Natural Deck Oil](#).

Benefits of ipe decking

Practical benefits include:

- No yearly cleaning or coating with preservatives if you choose to let this wood

weather naturally.

- 25-year guarantee against decay and termite damage.
- Resists splitting and warping.
- Has a Class A-1 Fire Retardant Rating (National Fire Protection Association/Uniform Building Code)—the same as steel and concrete.

Environmental benefits include:

- Extremely durable.
- Not treated with pesticides, so it can be used near ponds or other wet areas without fear of contamination.

How to use this product

Working with ipe

Ironwoods is air-dried. It is typically sold with a moisture content of 18 to 20 percent. A 4-inch-wide board will eventually shrink no more than 1/16 inch in width.

Ipe is tough on hand tools and nails. We recommend power tools with carbide-tipped saw blades and high-quality drill bits.

Fasteners

It makes no sense to build with fasteners that won't last as long as the wood. We recommend (and sell) stainless steel screws and invisible fastening systems. Be sure to pre-drill holes and countersink the screw heads.

Screw systems:

If you use self-drilling screws, such as the [Swaneze line](#) we sell from Swan Secure Products, first pre-bore countersinks (shallow holes that allow the screw heads to seat properly).

As an alternative, skip the countersink holes, drill 9/64-inch pilot holes and use stainless steel #7 trim-head screws.

The proper length of a fastener is 2½ times the thickness of the decking.

Invisible systems:

Instead of screwing through the exposed face of the decking, many installers now use hidden fasteners. Swan's [EB-TY "invisible" deck fastening system](#) uses stainless steel screws and football-shaped clips made of ultraviolet-resistant polypropylene, designed to last for a century. The inserts fit into slots that the builder cuts into the sides of the decking boards with a biscuit joiner or router. The system allows the decking to be installed from the top.

Other companies make systems where screws remain hidden because they are put in from underneath.

IronWoods sands well with electric sanders. Use coarser grits than with softer decking.

Sealing and Finishing

This wood will develop a silver patina if left unfinished.

To preserve the natural color, we recommend the deck treatment developed by Bio-Wash, a Canadian company.

- First, treat the deck with [Mill Glaze Away](#) (a powder dissolved in water), which opens the wood pores, adjusts the pH and leaves a slight borate residue on the wood to prevent growth of any mildew spores that might land on the wood before the finish is applied.
- Then coat with [Natural Deck Oil](#), a penetrating finish that blocks ultraviolet rays from the sun. They are what cause exposed wood to turn gray. Natural Deck Oil's UV protection comes primarily from iron oxide particles so finely ground that they are virtually transparent. Unlike UV

absorbers in some finishes, they don't wear out over time.

Safety

The sawdust from ipe may cause skin irritation. And wood dust in general is considered a possible human carcinogen because of an increased rate of nasal cancer among woodworkers in factories. We recommend wearing a respirator that works while sawing ipe.

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