

All decked out

A deck builder is only as good as his deck supplies. The right choices could make or break your design/build future

Building decks is one thing, but building ones that will last and get you good customer referrals is quite another. One step that you can make is choosing your deck materials carefully and not settling for anything other than the best. After all, your hard work is at stake, not to mention your customers' satisfaction.

Jud Griggs of Lied's Landscape Design & Development, Sussex, WI, has years of deck building experience and knows exactly what to use.

"We will suggest a pressure-treated understructure but seldom will we use pressure-treated wood for the decking material itself. Pressure-treated material, as it dries, will crack and won't weather uniformly," Griggs said.

Leid's normally opts for a good quality cedar or redwood. "Depending on your budget, there are some other types out there, too," he said. "Some of the new wood is so strong and lasts forever, particularly jarrah and ipe."

Recycled wood, containing wood fiber and plastic, is ideal for marine use, Griggs said, because it lasts forever and won't rot.



Slip resistance isn't a concern if you do a few things right the first time, Griggs said. "It depends on the sealer or preservative you use. Some brands that are advertised quite heavily are parafin-based and will make wood slippery after a good rain. If you use a quality sealer that seals the wood and doesn't put a parafin finish on it, then you're fine."



▲ L.B. Plastics' maintenance-free PVC decking, railing and cladding systems come in beige, white or gray. New additions to the Sheerline decking and railing lines include a residential decking surface and PVC brackets. The Sheerline Column Clad for treated wood posts is ideal for porches and balconies. For more information contact L.B. Plastics at 800/752-7739 or circle no. 278

◀ Durable Deck resurfaces existing decks and ramps in a long-lasting, safe and attractive vinyl covering. Rather than replacing old deck structures, Durable Deck is especially designed to be installed on top of existing decks. For more information contact Anchor Decking Systems at 888/898-4990 or circle no. 279