

FAQs

What does Trex composite decking offer that timber doesn't?

Trex products offer superior durability and performance that you can't get from timber. Trex decking won't rot, warp, or splinter and never needs staining or painting. What's more, Trex decking is made from 95% recycled materials, making it an environmentally-friendly choice you can feel great about.

What materials are used in the manufacturing of Trex?

Trex decking is made from 95% recycled materials, including reclaimed timber and sawdust as well as recycled plastic from many common household items, such as the plastic overwrap on packaging for paper towels and toilet paper, dry cleaner bags, newspaper bags, grocery and shopping bags. Trex annually salvages and keeps more than 400 million pounds of plastic and timber scrap out of landfills. That makes Trex one of the largest plastic film recyclers in the U.S. In fact, the average 500-square-foot composite Trex deck contains 140,000 recycled plastic bags.

If Trex is made from recycled materials, why is it more expensive than timber?

While most of the raw materials used in making Trex are recycled, these materials are carefully processed to ensure the highest level of quality and

performance. The end result is decking that performs better than timber, lowering your cost over time through lesser maintenance.

What is the lifetime cost of Trex?

With pressure-treated timber decks, maintenance costs add up over time. Although Trex costs more initially, you'll never have to sand, stain or paint your Trex deck. Over the life of your deck, those reduced maintenance costs add up to a greater value than timber – not to mention the value of all the time you get to spend enjoying your deck rather than working on it.

What benefit does the Trex high-performance shell deliver?

Trex Transcend® and Trex Enhance® are manufactured with a high-performance shell that wraps around the composite board to protect it from the elements while also letting it breathe, plus providing resistance to fading, staining, scratching and mould. In addition to improved performance, the shell technology offers:

Easier maintenance: requiring only an occasional cleaning with soap and water or a pressure washer.

Enhanced aesthetics: richer, long-lasting colour palettes and natural timber grain patterns.

Incremental warranty protection: a 25-year limited residential fade and stain warranty

Beyond using recycled materials, what other environmentally-friendly practices does Trex employ?

The Trex manufacturing process recycles factory runoff and refuse back into the manufacturing line. Within the plant, the trailers that carry product run on vegetable-based oil hydraulics. Because of all these environmentally friendly practices, Trex is a member of the USGBC (U.S. Green Building Council) and Trex products contribute to a building's LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) points.

Will Trex products weather (change colour/fade)?

High-performance composites like Trex Transcend® and Trex Enhance® have a protective shell technology that provides superior fade and stain resistance.

Does Trex composite decking get hotter than pressure-treated timber decks under the sun?

On a hot day with a blazing sun, nearly any surface will get uncomfortably hot. Lighter coloured boards tend to be slightly cooler than darker composite boards. In extensive studies, it has been found that the colour of the decking board, regardless if it's made of timber-plastic composite or timber is the most significant factor in the 'heat retention' of the board. In these studies, pressure-treated timber stained the same colour as

Trex was actually hotter than Trex in the same test conditions.

How much does Trex cost?

As with many things in life, you get what you pay for. Initially, Trex decking and railing does cost more, board for board, than timber decking and railing; however, the payoff you get over time in decreased maintenance costs and increased leisure time provides compelling value -- so much so, that you'll often see Trex decks referenced in the listings of homes for sale as an indicator of quality and value that homeowners and estate agents use when selling a home. Of course, the real value is in the time that you enjoy spending outdoors on your Trex deck.

Is Trex suitable for commercial projects?

The breadth of the Trex lineup means that there are Trex products to suit nearly any residential or commercial project. Trex decking is widely used in commercial and public projects throughout the world.

How heavy is Trex decking?

Trex boards are 50-70% heavier than comparable lumber timber sections. The Enhance range offers a lighter option, thanks to its scalloped finish.

Is Trex structural?

Trex timber plastic composite products are not structural and should only be used for intended design purposes

such as walking surfaces and guardrail systems.

Can you rip a Trex board?

Trex products should not be ripped to reduce thickness, but can be ripped to reduce width. As long as the board can still be installed per the installation instructions, the warranty will be valid. Please use care when fastening ripped boards, as pre-drilling may be necessary.

Can Trex deck boards be glued?

Glue cannot be used as a primary fastener. When using Trex Fascia, glue can be used as a secondary fastener – see Fascia instructions in the [Installation Guide](#) for more details.

Can Trex be placed over a solid surface?

Trex can only be installed over a solid surface when using a sleeper system; see the sleeper system guidelines in our [Installation Guide](#).

Can I paint or stain my Trex composite deck boards?

The unyielding shell of our high-performance decking—Trex Transcend and Trex Enhance—means it never needs painting or staining. The rich colour and protective finish are engineered right into the shell, and are warranted to remain free of rotting, splitting, splintering and insect damage for 25 years.

Can I use a non-recommended fastener to install Trex decking?

Trex does not endorse the use of any non-recommended fastener. If any condition occurs which is attributable to the use of a non-recommended fastener, such conditions would not be covered under the Trex Limited Warranty. Please see our [Installation Guide](#) for more information.

Can Trex decking be sanded or power-washed?

Trex should never be sanded. Sanding will change the appearance and protective qualities of the Trex composite material and will void the warranty with respect to any condition caused by sanding.

Trex high-performance decking (Trex Transcend and Trex Enhance) can be power washed. Use only a fan tip and up to a 3100 psi power washer to remove soil and debris. The fan tip should be no closer than 8 inches (20.4 cm) away from the protective shell during use.

Is Trex decking no-maintenance?

Trex decking requires far lower maintenance than timber decking, but does require some [maintenance](#) to keep it looking good throughout the years, much like washing your car. For Trex high-performance decking (Trex Transcend and Trex Enhance) a simple soap and water cleaning is all that is necessary to maintain the beauty of the products.

How do I remove any ground soil from the construction of my Trex decking?

A pressure washer with no greater than 3100 psi* that has a fan attachment/adjustment and soap dispenser may be used to remove soil, concrete dust, or other types of construction soil. Spray deck with soap, and then follow by gently scrubbing each deck board with a soft bristle brush. Spray/rinse each individual deck board using fan tip no closer than 8” from the decking surface. RINSE THOROUGHLY. If dirty water from cleaning is left to dry, this will cause a film to remain on the decking surface. *Use of a pressure washer greater than 3100 psi could damage the boards and void the warranty.

Can I use rock salt to melt ice on my Trex decking?

Calcium chloride or rock salt can be used to melt ice and snow on Trex decking. Care should be taken to rinse off when the weather makes this practical. Use plastic shovels (never metal) to remove snow and ice. A metal shovel can possibly chip the decking surface and void the warranty.

[Can I use a different transformer with my Trex® DeckLighting™?](#)

Trex requires that you use only the Trex transformer supplied with our lighting. Using any other transformer voids the warranty.