

# Composite Decking Demystified

A short guide to the many benefits of composite decking



**fiberon**<sup>®</sup>

Deck it right the first time.<sup>™</sup>

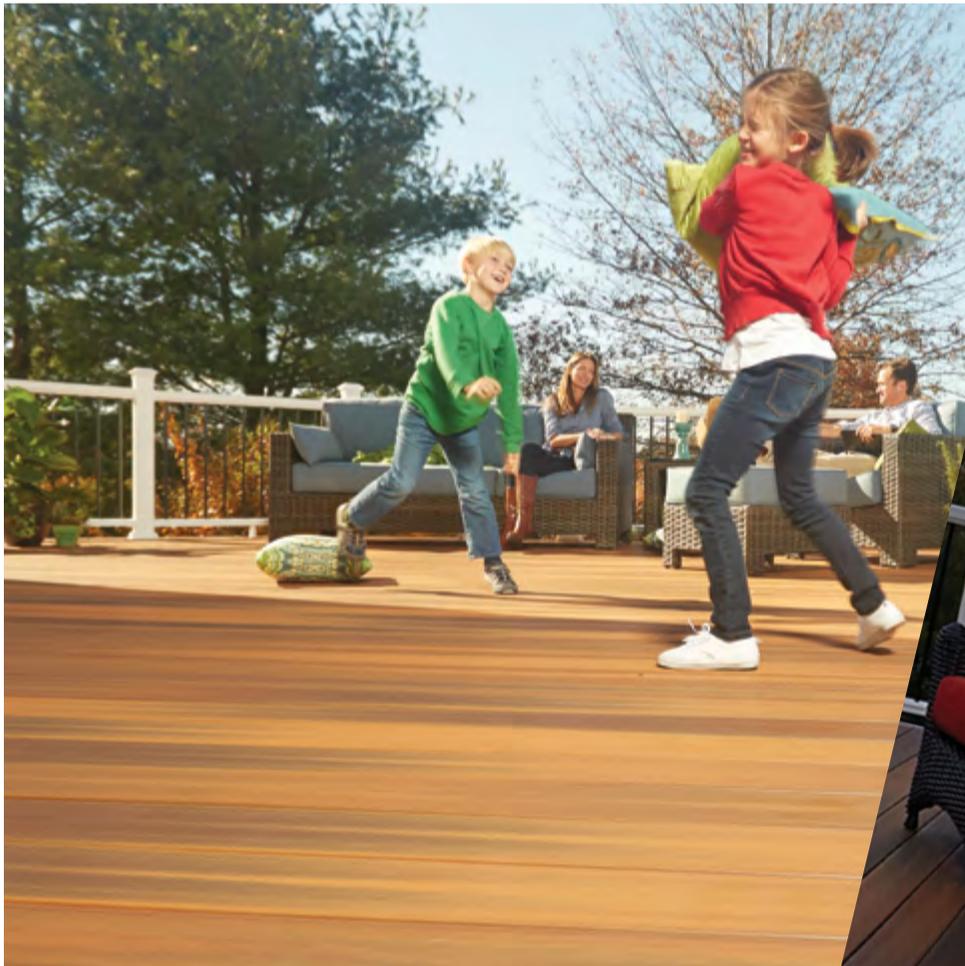
# Decks have become extensions of our homes.

We eat dinner there, host parties, relax in hot tubs – even watch television.



As deck function has evolved, so have decking materials. Wood is no longer the only (or the best) option.

When it comes to durability, eco-friendliness, maintenance, and value, composites are the smarter choice.



## What is composite decking?

Fiberon® composite decking is a man-made product comprising wood and plastic. It offers the look and feel of wood without all the maintenance.

Fiberon® gets its wood from ground window trim, door frames, lumber and cabinet pieces. Recycled milk jugs, shampoo and detergent bottles, and plastic bags comprise the bulk of plastic content.

Capped composite decking refers to composite decking with a cap stock (or cover) over it. Unlike many first-generation composites that were uncapped, Fiberon capped composite decking won't splinter, crack or rot, and is highly resistant to staining, fading, and mold.



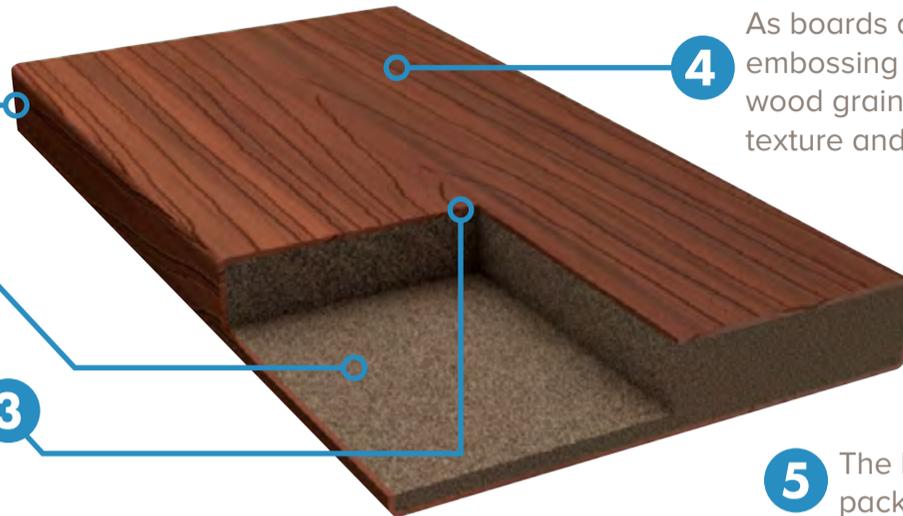
# See how composite decking is made.

Fiberon capped composite decking is produced using a co-rotating extrusion process.

1 Dies are used to create side-grooved and square-edge boards, and flat and scalloped bottom profiles.

2 The polyethylene polymers and wood are thoroughly blended to yield a dense core material.

3 Over this core, we co-extrude and bond a specially-engineered cap stock to enhance the board's durability.



4 As boards are extruded, embossing wheels imprint varied wood grain patterns for realistic texture and visual interest.

5 The boards are cooled, cut, packaged and shipped.



Fiberon manufacturing facility in New London, NC



# What about wood decking?

- Southern Pine, Redwood and Cedar are the most commonly used species.
- Exotics such as Ipe are beautiful when new, but will turn gray without diligent maintenance.
- Harvesting isn't always carefully monitored or controlled.
- Wood quality varies. The tree's age and the sawing method used, for example, will impact the lumber's stability, how it accepts stain and how it will react to changes in moisture content.
- Varying treatment and drying methods also affect lumber's performance.

## The story behind pressure-treated wood

Pressure treatment involves soaking wood in a chemical preservative and then placing it into a pressure chamber. The chamber forces the chemical preservatives into the wood fibers to help protect it from insects and fungal decay. These chemicals are considered dangerous (that's why you never burn pressure-treated wood, for instance) and don't ensure lasting protection against decay. Additional preservatives must be applied regularly or the wood will succumb to insect infestation and decay.

### *Did you know?*

*Wood residue from lumber mills is one of the top three sources of wood waste in the United States, according to the U.S. Forest Products Laboratory.*

# Fiberon is eco-friendly from start to finish.

The Fiberon manufacturing process is energy efficient and virtually waste free:

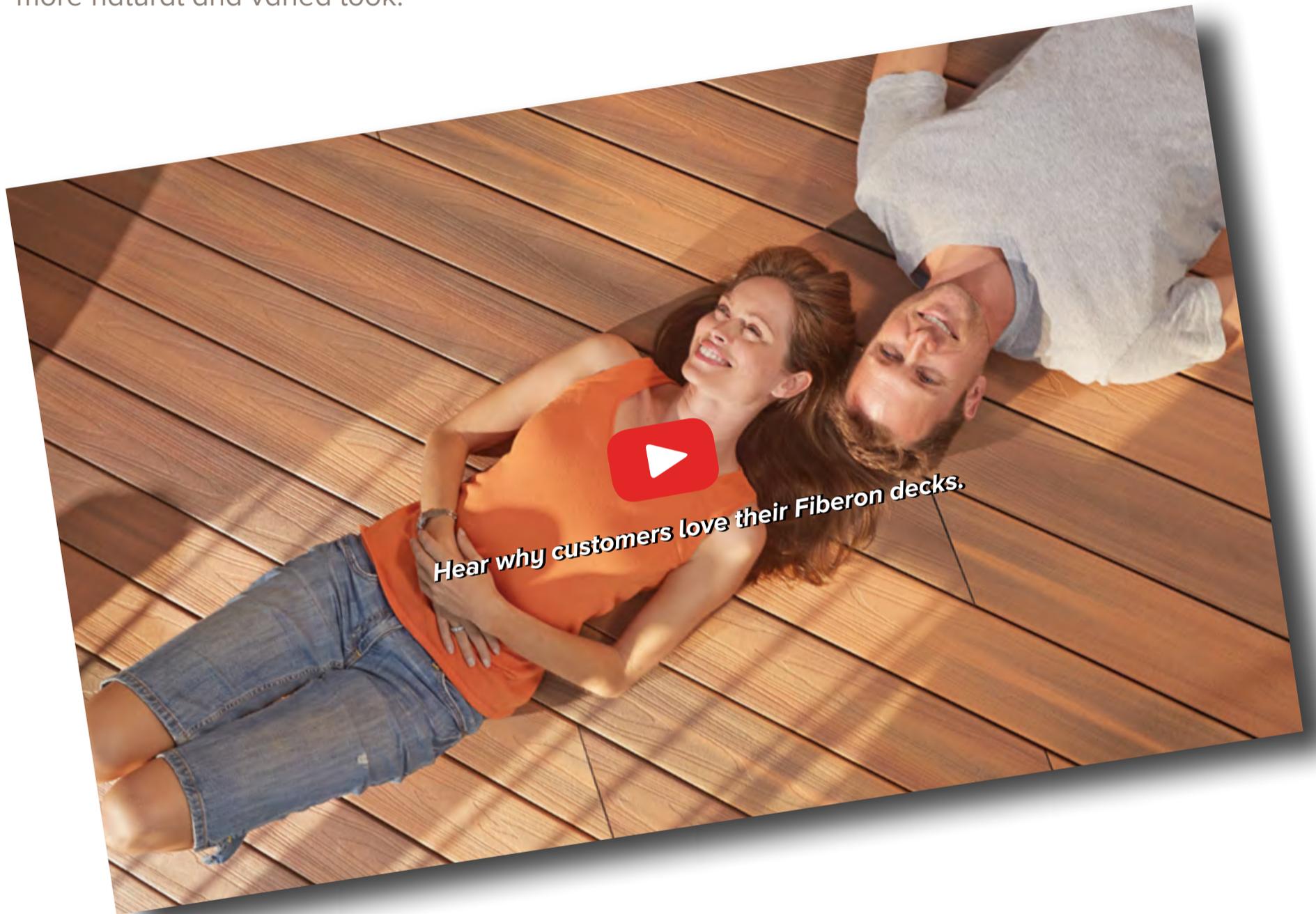
- 100% of polyethylene material is reclaimed in the manufacturing process.
- 98.5% of all material waste is recovered.
- Minimal water discharge, thanks to closed-loop water cooling systems.
- The extrusion process works via electricity on-demand, minimizing energy waste and environmental impact.
- Fiberon diverts 50,000 tons of wood and plastics from landfills and incinerators each year.



# Enjoy all the beauty without all the work.

Fiberon composite decking boards are produced in solid colors or multi-chromatic colors that feature nuanced tones and streaking, just like real wood.

To create multi-chromatic colors, Fiberon uses a process in which specific colors are added at precise moments during the extrusion process to create multiple colors tones on a single deck board. This technology gives composite decking a more natural and varied look.



Select a swatch to view the available colors.



**Horizon**  
Color Shown: Ipe



**ProTect Advantage**  
Color Shown: Chestnut



**Good Life**  
Color Shown: Cottage

# Relax or refinish: the choice is yours.

Composite decking is easier (and less expensive) to maintain. It lasts longer, too.



## Wood

- Regular staining and periodic overhauls (sanding, stripping and re-staining) are needed.
- Maintenance is time-consuming. If done professionally, it's also expensive.
- The average wood deck lasts 10-15 years.

## Composites

- Cleaning with soap and water is usually sufficient.
- If leaves or other seasonal debris accumulate, simply sweep it off.
- A Fiberon composite deck can last decades and longer.

# Let's review ...



## Wood

## Fiberon Capped Composites

<b>Sourcing</b>	Sourced globally. Can be difficult to determine if harvested sustainably.	Made from up to 74% wood waste and recycled plastics, virtually all sourced within 500 miles of manufacturing plants.
<b>Initial Cost</b>	Lower, unless exotic species.	Higher (although Fiberon offers composites at varied price points).
<b>Appearance</b>	Turns gray over time. Prone to splintering and cracking.	Color remains intact. No splintering or cracking.
<b>Chemicals</b>	Used to preserve wood and slow decay and infestation.	No toxic chemicals used during or after manufacturing.
<b>Maintenance</b>	Annual refinishing needed. Periodic sanding, stripping, and refinishing needed. \$450-\$850/per year	Annual soap and water cleaning. Sweep debris (leaves, etc.) as needed \$5-15/per year
<b>Average Lifespan</b>	10-15 years	25+ years
<b>Long-term Value</b>	Fair to poor	Excellent

# Ready to get started?

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[Fiberondecking.com](https://www.fiberondecking.com) has all the tools you need to design your dream deck.

## Need inspiration?

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From the '[Decking Ideas](#)' page, you can view inspirational photos in the Product Gallery, check out professional projects in the Contractor Gallery, or download deck plans.



Product Gallery



Contractor Gallery



Deck Plans

## Ready to design?

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Visit the '[Design Tools](#)' page. You can test out decking and railing combinations using the Product Visualizer, design a custom deck with the Deck Design Tool, or download the ultimate deck planning guide.



Product Visualizer



Deck Design Tool



Planning Guide

## Start your project.

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Will you hire a contractor or build it yourself? The '[Start Your Project](#)' page includes tips on selecting the ideal contractor, information on nearby Fiberon dealers, and product installation guides.

