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8 Tips for Choosing the Right Decking for Any Weather

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When building or upgrading a deck, one of the important factors to consider is the weather. A deck will be exposed to rain and other conditions, so choosing the right materials and design is vital for durability and comfort. The right decisions ensure a deck stands up to any weather, providing a safe and pleasant space for guests year-round. This article provides tips to help choose the right decking for any weather.

1. Think About the Climate in Your Area

The first step in choosing the right decking material is understanding the local climate. In areas with high humidity and frequent rain, choose a material that resists moisture. For areas with extreme heat, consider materials that won't warp or fade under the sun. In regions with snow and freezing temperatures, select decking that can withstand the cold without cracking or becoming slippery.

2. Choose a Moisture-Resistant Material

Moisture is a major threat to **Decking**. Wood can absorb water, leading to rotting and mildew growth, while composite and PVC decking are more resistant to moisture. For the natural look of wood, consider pressure-treated wood, which resists water damage. But, composite decking, made from a mixture of wood fibers and plastic, is a choice for its moisture resistance and longer lifespan with less maintenance.

3. Opt for UV-Resistant Decking

In areas with lots of sunlight, choose a decking material that is UV-resistant. Composite decking is often treated to resist fading, while high-quality PVC decking offers good protection against UV damage. For wood decking, consider species like cedar which resist UV damage better than other types of wood. Regular maintenance, like applying a protective finish, can maintain the color and integrity of decking.

4. Look for Slip-Resistant Features

While you are choosing decking materials, look for options with slip-resistant features. Composite and PVC decking have textured surfaces to help prevent slipping. Some brands offer decking with built-in grooves or other features to enhance traction. If using wood, ensure it's sealed and treated to prevent water from collecting on the surface, which can cause slippery conditions when wet.

5. Select Durable Materials for Extreme Weather

If living in an area with extreme weather, choosing a durable decking material is crucial. Hardwood decking, like ipe, is durable and can resist extreme conditions without warping or splitting. Composite and PVC decking are excellent options, designed to handle wear and tear. Consider how the material holds up over time to ensure it's built to last, especially with frequent exposure to extreme conditions.

6. Consider the Maintenance Requirements

Traditional wood decking needs regular sealing, staining, and cleaning to stay in good condition. This is especially important in areas with high rain or humidity, as wood can warp or rot without proper maintenance. Aside from that, composite and PVC decking require less upkeep, as staining or sealing isn't necessary, though periodic cleaning is still needed to remove dirt and debris.

7. Evaluate the Expansion and Contraction of Materials

Changes in temperature can cause decking materials to expand and contract. Composite and PVC decking handle expansion and contraction better than wood. These materials typically include expansion gaps in the installation process to allow for movement. Wood, however, may shrink or swell depending on moisture levels, requiring more care to prevent damage.

8. Factor in Aesthetic Preferences

Whether preferring the wood or the modern appearance of composite decking, choose a material that complements the home. Wood decking has a natural beauty and can be stained to match any design. Composite and PVC decking come in various colors and finishes, allowing for a customized look. Keep in mind that lighter colors fade quickly in the sun, so opting for darker shades can maintain color longer.

Decking for Every Season, Crafted for Every Need!

Choosing the right decking for any weather involves considering the local climate and aesthetics. Selecting materials that are moisture-resistant and slip-resistant ensures a safe and functional deck year-round. Whether preferring the wood or composite and PVC options, plenty of choices suit specific needs. With careful consideration, a beautiful and durable deck can withstand any weather conditions.

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