

deck

IN A SNAP

Renew an unsightly deck or patio with click-together modular tiles.

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Using modular wooden decking squares that snap together, you can transform a worn deck or a drab patio into a rich-looking, hardwood surface in an hour or two.

BEFORE



Easy to install, portable, and as attractive as fine furniture—modular decking can be all that and more. Recently introduced to the North American market, modular decking tiles offer an alternative to conventional timber decking and inspire creative uses where traditional decks cannot be built.

The system shown here is called Eco Decking Tiles. They are 12x12-inch hardwood-topped tiles that snap together via interlocking tabs and form a continuous surface. The decking tiles enable you to update any solid, level, and well-drained surface outdoors or indoors. They work especially well if you have an existing deck or patio in need of a makeover. Other potential applications include a porch, courtyard, pool deck, sunroom, or entryway. The cost runs about \$10–\$12 a tile.

Exotic woods

“With environmental concerns at an all-time high, we wanted to bring a responsible product to the decking market,” says Lorenzo Cavalletti, president and co-founder of The Decking Outlet in San Diego. These tiles are constructed with ipe, an exotic hardwood from sustainably managed forests in Bolivia. Known for its durability and longevity, ipe withstands weather

and age, making it an outstanding decking material. Other exotic woods for tiles include jarrah, curupay, and grapia.

Installing a surface of decking tiles usually takes an hour or two, depending on the size of the area. You won't need building plans, special tools, fasteners, adhesives, or skilled workers. Once installed, the deck is ready for immediate use. It can be taken up and repositioned whenever you wish.

“One of our customers was an older couple who installed 1,500 square feet of decking,” Cavalletti says. “The wife did most of the work as her husband [who uses a wheelchair] passed the tiles to her to install.” *

For more information, see Resources on page 111.



STURDY CONSTRUCTION

Each tile is constructed of wooden slats screwed to a solid backer board and a polypropylene mesh base. The design allows rain and other moisture to drain away.

SNAP TO IT!

Connecting decking tiles is a snap—literally. Tabs extending from each side of the tiles interlock to form a secure, stable surface.

EASY INSTALLATION

Surface preparation is simple. Just clear the area and sweep it clean. Starting in a corner, lay the deck by snapping tiles together.




 Sustainably harvested hardwoods offer the good looks and durability of fine furniture and come from renewable resources.

These tiles are available in four wood types—ipe, jarrah, grapia, and curupay—with color variations. Known for their strength and durability, the dense exotic hardwoods also resist insects and rot. The tiles are made to withstand exposure to extreme temperatures.

The manufacturer guarantees that the hardwoods used to make its products come from certified forestry programs that regulate harvesting practices and ensure renewable sources of the woods. The woods are collected according to principles of sustainable yield. The amount of timber harvested does not exceed annual growth.



 You can arrange the tiles in all sorts of configurations. These are just a few of the possible patterns.

EDGING



Decking Maintenance

Once you've installed the wooden tiles, keep your decking looking its best.

- * Allow decking to fade naturally by leaving it unfinished. All four woods—ipe, jarrah, grapia, and curupay—soften to a silvery gray, similar to cedar.
- * Apply exterior-grade, preservative-type penetrating oil to help maintain the wood's rich color once or twice a year, depending on your climate.
- * Sweep the deck regularly to remove leaves and other debris. Rinse the surface occasionally using the forceful blast of a garden hose to keep the tiles clean.