

Wood Decking Material Comparison

Type	Appearance	Hardness (Janka Scale)* lbs.	Bending Strength psi	Decay resistance
Ipe	Sometimes called "Ironwood", Ipe is an extremely dense, tight grained wood. Generally deep rich brown with some pieces displaying red and amber hues	3,680	25,360	Highest rating for insect (termite) and decay resistance
Cumaru	Another very dense hardwood, Cumaru tends to be a medium to dark brown, with some pieces displaying streaks of yellowish or greenish brown.	3,540	22,400	Highest rating for insect (termite) and decay resistance
Massaranduba	Also Known as Brazilian Redwood, Massaranduba has a consistant reddish color wood with a fine straight grain and is nearly blemished free.	3,190	17,310	Highest rating for insect (termite) and decay resistance
Teak	Very dense, straight-grained hardwood with a high natural oil content. Deep rich brown with some pieces displaying red and amber hues	1,000	10,975	Generally very resistant to decay, however, different grades will vary greatly.
Pressure Treated Pine	Very pronounced grain. Dusty yellow-green color due to the chemical treatment Permanent surface punctures from treating equipment	690	14,500	Chromated copper arsenate in the wood offers excellent decay resistance, but with potential health and environmental risks.
Douglas Fir	Light reddish brown wood with generally straight grain	670	12,400	Not naturally resistant to decay Continued Treatment is recommended
Western Cedar	Light reddish brown wood with generally straight grain	580	7,500	Resistant to decay, but relatively soft and quick to weather. Continued Treatment is recommended
California Redwood	Several grades available that vary considerably in appearance and quality. Usually straight grained with a fine, even texture. Color varies from cherry-red to dark reddish-brown.	420	10,000	Higher grades more durable than most common woods in use. Resistant to decay, but relatively soft and quick to weather. Continued Treatment is recommended

*Janka Scale

The **Janka** hardness is a measurement of the force necessary to embed a .444-inch steel ball to half its diameter in wood, and is the industry standard for gauging a wood product's resistance to wear and denting.

