

Southern Pine: Real Wood for Real Homes

As a homeowner looking to upgrade your home, you might add marble to your bath, granite to your countertops or stainless steel appliances to your kitchen. You want to upgrade with products that will give you the highest return for your money when you sell the home. Keep this in mind when adding on a deck: If you want the look and feel of real wood, Southern Pine lumber is your choice.

According to a recent study by the Hearth, Patio & Barbecue Association, the most popular planned improvement is a new patio or deck. Outdoor landscaping ranked a close third. A properly built deck adds so much to a home: It can provide a beautiful view of your backyard or garden and becomes a true outdoor extension of your lifestyle.

So why choose Southern Pine lumber for your deck? According to the folks at SPAN, the Southern Pine Awareness Network, consumers are choosing Southern Pine lumber for a variety of reasons:

Strength: Southern Pine is one of the strongest softwood species on the market. This durability is what makes it the perfect choice for your deck or outdoor project: You can rest assured knowing your deck will last a long time.

Beauty: The grain and color of Southern Pine lumber are unrivaled. The deep golden color accented by darker swirls around knots ... this is what real wood should look like, and nothing beats it.

Treatability: the makeup of Southern Pine allows it to accept stain deeper than most other wood species. This means the preservative is consistently distributed throughout the piece of wood, giving a clean appearance and a long-lasting product. A whopping 85 percent of all treated wood on the market is Southern Pine.

Environmental friendliness: Wood is the only renewable and sustainable building material, making it the true green choice. It is 100 percent renewable and it can be regenerated and recycled. As we continue to plant and grow trees, America is the clear winner: Healthy trees remove carbon dioxide, produce fresh oxygen, create cozy homes for a variety of wildlife and provide the materials to create years of outdoor fun for you and your family.

Two added bonuses of using Southern Pine lumber: even in the heat of a Southern summer, it's safe to walk on barefoot. Southern Pine lumber does not conduct heat like other

building material options. And, with pressure-washing once a year the only suggested maintenance, it virtually takes care of itself.

You can find Southern Pine lumber at any retail lumber dealer or home improvement store. Don't be afraid of the lumber aisle; look for the clear yellow color (with a greenish tint for treated Southern Pine) and the letters "SP" or "SYP" on the grade mark.

SPAN, the Southern Pine Awareness Network, was founded in 2004 to raise awareness of the benefits of using Southern Pine lumber in building, remodeling and home improvement projects. SPAN offers a wealth of information on the topic of Southern Pine lumber in building. Visit www.spanpine.com for more information on Southern Pine lumber, project plans, environmental information and a listing of where to buy Southern Pine in your neighborhood.

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