

# deck IN A SNAP

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

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BEFORE



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

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 12.812-inch hardwood-tipped 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 to \$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 Lereneo Cavallini, president and co-founder of The Decking Outlet in San Diego. These tiles are constructed with ipé, an exotic hardwood from sustainably managed forests in Bolivia. Known for its durability and longevity, ipé withstands weather

and age, making it an outstanding decking material. Other exotic woods for tiles include arach, carypane, and gappa.

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 8,500 square feet of decking," Cavallini 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 rubber board and a polypropylene mesh base. The design allows rain and other moisture to drain away.

#### EASY INSTALLATION

Surface preparation is simple. Just clear the area and sweep it clean. Start by snapping tiles together.



#### SNAP TO IT!

Converting decking tiles is a snap—literally. Tiles released from each side of the tiles interlock to form a secure, stable surface.



 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, jatoh, 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.

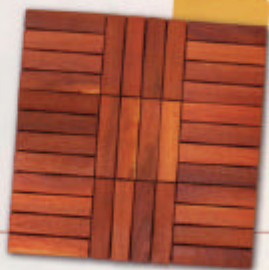
CURUPAY



GRAPIA



IPE



VERTICAL




EDGING



TIC-TAC-TOE



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

### Decking Maintenance

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

- Allow decking to be naturally seasoned by leaving it unfinished. All four woods—ipe, jatoh, grapia, and curupay—soften to a sleek gray color in color.
- 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 forward blast of a garden hose to keep the tiles clean.