

# The Lifespan of Composite Decking: What to Expect?

If you're considering installing [composite decking](#) in your outdoor space, its durability and lifespan are likely top concerns. Composite decking blends plastic and wood materials to create a durable, splinter-free, and low-maintenance alternative to natural wood decking.

But how long does composite decking actually last? What factors affect its lifespan? Here, we delve into everything you need to know about composite decking longevity.

## What is the Typical Lifespan of Composite Decking?

With proper installation and care, quality composite decking has an exceptionally long service life. The average lifespan of composite decking is 20-30 years. However, many composite decking products today come with limited lifetime warranties against defects, fade, stain, rot and more. This attests to their extreme durability and longevity when properly maintained.

## What Makes Composite Decking So Durable?

Composite decking owes its long lifespan to its unique construction. It consists of several layers:

- The core contains wood pulp or plastic composites as the main filler. This lends strength and stability.
- The outer shell features a durable plastic polymer coating that fully encases the core. This provides protection from weather, foot traffic, moisture, fading, and staining.
- Additional surface layers enhance slip resistance for safety.

This construction allows quality composite decking to outlast natural wood by many years. The materials resist rotting, cracking, warping, and insect damage far better than untreated lumber.

## Factors That Impact Composite Decking Longevity

Several factors affect how long your composite decking will last:

### 1. Quality of Materials

Cheaper composite decking is more likely to warp, fade, or degrade faster from weather exposure and wear-and-tear. Opt for premium boards made with resins and durable shell

compositions. Reputable brands also have stringent quality control over the ratio of wood to plastic.

## 2. Proper Installation

Correct decking substructure, fastening methods, and spacing impact longevity. Poor construction shortens lifespan by enabling structural instability, improper drainage, or moisture retention.

## 3. Climate Conditions

In very cold climates, dramatic temperature shifts can encourage slight contraction and expansion in composite boards. Over years, this stresses connections points. Hot, humid, or very sunny areas also accelerate weathering effects like fading, so proper care is key.

## 4. Level of Traffic and Wear

Heavily used decks or those around pools may show wear sooner, especially if using thinner profile boards. Consider thicker decking for high traffic areas.

## 5. Maintenance Routines

Like most building materials, lack of cleaning enables buildup of dirt, organic debris, and moisture that can stain and degrade composites over time. Following the manufacturer's care guidelines is key for maximum lifespan.

## What is the Maintenance Like for Composite Decking?

Composite decking requires far less maintenance than natural wood. It eliminates the need to stain, seal, or paint. Instead, simple periodic cleaning is often all that's needed.

Here are general composite decking maintenance tips:

- Sweep regularly with a broom to prevent dirt and leaf buildup.
- Spot clean spills and stains quickly as they occur.
- Deep clean the boards once or twice per year with composite deck cleaner and a stiff brush.
- Inspect boards and connections yearly. Repair issues promptly.
- Reseal cut board ends and other exposed areas of the core material with end caps or silicone caulk to prevent moisture incursion.

Proper installation and care enable quality composite decking to offer 20 years or more of near pristine condition. This exceptional lifespan provides great return on investment.

## Enjoy Decades of Durability from Ecoscape's Composite Decking

With its cutting-edge construction and durable polymer shell, quality composite decking offers homeowners decades of splinter-free, low-maintenance outdoor living enjoyment. Ecoscape's composite decking range provides homeowners with exceptional durability.

Constructed using the latest advancements in sustainable composite technology, Ecoscape decking provides unrivalled stain, fade and scratch resistance. With simple periodic maintenance, Ecoscape homeowners enjoy worry-free outdoor living and entertaining for decades – all while avoiding continual staining or sealing.

[Contact Ecoscape's composite decking specialists](#) today to discuss transforming your outdoor space with durable, sustainable decking guaranteed to provide lasting quality and beauty.