

## Buying Naturally Durable Hardwood Decking Check List.

To assist consumers in making informed deck purchasing decisions we have prepared a list of questions that should be asked prior to any purchasing decision.

- 1) Is the material I intend to use considered Naturally Durable as per IBC and IRC (International Building and International Residential) Codes
- 2) Is my deck well ventilated (12" or more above the ground or roof with an open perimeter) or poorly ventilated (less than 12" above the ground or roof with a closed perimeter)?
- 3) What is the equilibrium moisture content for wood in the location of my project (this can be found [www.fpl.fs.fed.us/documnts/fplrn/fplrn268.pdf](http://www.fpl.fs.fed.us/documnts/fplrn/fplrn268.pdf) or in our library)?
- 4) What fastening options are available and why is one better than another (options include face screw, face screw and plug, hidden fasteners)?
- 5) What installation method do I want to use?
- 6) Is resistance to fire important in my deck application?
- 7) Do I intend to pre-finish my decking to maintain the natural color or allow my decking to weather grey naturally?
- 8) What is the grade of wood I desire and are there written grading rules available against which I can measure compliance?
- 9) Based on the answers to 1-7, what are my recommended species, grade, moisture content, dimension and profile options to achieve a superior outcome and why is one option superior to another.

Please review our Iron Woods Best Practices guide for the answers to these and many other questions?