

Trex Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Who is Trex?

A: Trex Company, Inc. is the manufacturer of Trex® decking, railing, fencing and trim and is the leading brand of alternative decking lumber in North America. A former division of Mobil Corporation, the company was formed by four Mobil executives in 1995 and went public in April 1999. Trex Company's headquarters and a manufacturing facility are located in Winchester, VA. Trex Company also has a manufacturing facility in Fernley, NV.

Q: Why are Trex® decking, railing, or fencing and trim products better than wood?

A: Trex products offer superior durability and performance that you can't get from wood. Trex won't rot, warp, or splinter; and they never require staining or painting to maintain great looks.

Q: If Trex® is made from recycled materials, why is it more expensive than wood?

A: While most of the raw materials used in making Trex are recycled, these materials are carefully processed to ensure the highest level of quality and performance. If you would like to learn more about our materials and programs, please review our [Environmentally Friendly](#) page.

Q: What is the lifetime value of Trex®?

A: Because Trex never rots or warps, painting and staining is not required, however with pressure-treated wood decks, these costs add up over time. After four years, the total cost of owning a Trex deck equals the cost of a pressure-treated wood deck. Over the life of the purchase, Trex offers a far greater value than wood. Clean it twice a year and you're done so you can spend more time enjoying your outdoor living space, rather than working on it.

Q: Will Trex® products weather (change color/fade)?

A: Because the wood fiber in Trex will be exposed to water and sunlight, the product will lighten over time. Trex will achieve its weathered color after 12-16 weeks. [Natural Weathering Information](#)

Q: Can you send me product samples?

A: You can find Trex samples at your local dealer, The Home Depot stores, Lowe's stores or ask your contractor.

Q: Why isn't Trex® structural?

A: Trex has made a market decision to offer a product that will provide the customer with a superior walking surface, guardrail system, fencing and trim.

Q: How heavy is Trex®?

A: Trex weighs about 50-70% heavier than comparable lumber sections with a specific gravity of about 0.96.

Q: Is Trex® code-compliant?

A: Trex products have been tested to ensure compliance with the 2006 International Building Code. Check with our local building code department for jurisdictional requirements.

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Q: Does Trex® decking get hotter than pressure treated wood?

A: In an independent study, Trex was comparable in surface temps to pressure treated boards.

Q: Why is the TrexExpress™ railing assembly tool not included with the railing kits?

A: Most decking systems require multiple railing sections and since only one TrexExpress tool is necessary, it would drive up the cost of the system. TrexExpress railing assembly tools are available wherever Trex® railing products are sold.

Q: Can Trex Seclusions® Privacy Fencing be installed on concrete or attached to a brick column?

A: Yes. Your local fencing contractor can assist you with any attachment to masonry.

Q: How do you clean Trex Seclusions® Privacy Fencing?

A: Since Trex Seclusions is made of the same material as Trex® decking, the same cleaning methods apply. [Cleaning Guide](#)

Q: Can I sand or rout Trex Escapes®?

A: Coextruded PVC products, like Trex Escapes, should not be sanded. Escapes can be routed for use with our Trex® Hideaway Hidden Fasteners.

Q: Can I rout TrexTrim™?

A: Yes, TrexTrim can be routed. We suggest leaving the protective film on for cleaner results.

Q: Can I rip TrexTrim™?

A: TrexTrim should not be ripped to reduce thickness, but can be ripped to reduce the width. Use care when fastening, as ripped TrexTrim may require pre-drilling prior to fastening.

Q: Do I have to paint TrexTrim™?

A: For aesthetic reasons TrexTrim should be painted, however it is not necessary for the structural performance of the component.

Q: Can Trex® decking be curved?

A: With help and considerable patience, Trex can be curved with the proper tools and instructions. See our [Installation Guide](#).

Q: Can the edges of Trex® be routed?

A: Trex routs beautifully to give extremely crisp edges. Do not rout balusters or 4x4 profiles. We do not recommend routing Trex Brasilia® or Trex Escapes®. Routing will change the unique surface of this product.

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Q: Can a groove be cut in the side of a Trex® deck board?

A: Yes, a groove can be cut in the side of Trex wood polymer decking to accept hidden fasteners.

Q: Can you rip a Trex® board?

A: Trex products should not be ripped to reduce thickness, but can be ripped to reduce width. As long as the board can still be installed per the installation instructions the warranty will be valid. Please use care when fastening ripped boards, as pre-drilling may be necessary.

Q: Can Trex® be sanded or power washed?

A: We do not recommend sanding. Sanding will change the appearance of the Trex material surface.

For standard Trex decking (composite and PVC), Trex does not recommend the use of a power washer. Use of a power washer can damage the decking surface and will void the warranty with respect to any condition caused by the power washing.

Trex Transcend products can be power washed. A 1500 psi power washer may be used on Transcend's shell surface to remove dirt and debris. Use a fan tip at least 4 inches (10.2 cm) away from the shell when you are using the power washer.

Q: Can Trex® deck boards be glued?

A: Glue cannot be used as a primary fastener.

Q: Can Trex® be placed over a solid surface?

A: Trex can only be installed over a solid surface when using a sleeper system; see the sleeper system guidelines in our [Installation Guide](#).

Q: Can you notch Trex Railposts™?

A: Trex Railposts cannot be notched. Trex does not endorse the notching of any post to be used in a guardrail system application.

Q: Can I paint or stain my Trex®?

A: Although Trex does not need painting or staining to maintain its looks, it can be done. Please refer to the [painting guidelines](#) to help make the job easier.

Q: What makes the Tropical Color Styles different from the rest of the Transcend product line?

A: The proprietary creative process at Trex randomly mixes a rich base color with an even deeper streak color, resulting in a beautifully unique, organic look for every tropical board we produce. Our Lava Rock features a more subtle range of color; with Spiced Rum, the variety is more pronounced. This means bundle by bundle, no two boards will look the same-nor like anyone else's.