

HINTS FOR HOMEOWNERS

Deck Out Your Outdoors

(NAPSA)—Americans everywhere are spending more time at home. Because of this, they are looking for creative ways to expand their current space by investing in “outdoor living rooms.” Creating outdoor living areas can be a cost-effective way to enhance both the beauty and functionality of your yard and home, make more livable space and increase the value of your home. Try the following simple tips to revamp and grow your living space:

Create different rooms

We are used to having our homes divided into rooms, but rarely take this approach to our outdoor spaces. But dividing up your yard can actually help to maximize your enjoyment of it. Look at the available space and designate one area for play, one for dining and socializing, and another for relaxing. Then decorate accordingly!

Focus on quality

When embarking on any renovation project, make selections that will maintain and perform in the long-term. For example, if you are building a deck, using SYMMATRIX™ Composite Decking means your deck will stand up to the elements for years without cracking, splitting or warping. And it requires no sealing or staining, so maintaining it requires little effort on your part!

Set the mood with color

Just as you would with an indoor room, you can use color to decorate outdoors. In fact, applying color theory when selecting plants and flower arrangements



can influence the mood and personality of a space. For example, while earth tones are appropriate for a relaxation corner, bright colors like pink and red are ideal in areas used for play. If you're building a patio or deck, select a base color that matches your home, but allows for flexibility in design.

Get the most for your money

You want to enjoy your home, but you also want to see it increase in value over time. So when it comes to making big decisions, such as the addition of a deck or pool, research the dollar value that element will bring. For example, according to *Replacement Contractor*, installing a deck provides the second highest return on investment for homeowners—over 90 percent on average after the first year of installation.

Use your space!

Why limit the time you spend outdoors to the summertime? Even in colder climates, accessories are available that can extend the use of your outdoor space to other times of year. Electric heaters, outdoor fireplaces and fire pits are accessories that will keep you warm through late fall and into early spring.

To learn more about the benefits of composite decking, visit www.dowsymmatrix.com.