

NEW BRUNSWICK DECKS

Composite & PVC Decking

Questions about Trex, TimberTech, Fiberon, AZEK,
and other composite and PVC decking products.

15 Expert Answers from Deck IQ

newbrunswickdecks.com/construction-brain

Table of Contents

1. What is the best composite decking for a dock or waterfront property in Miramichi NB?
2. Do I still need to seal composite decking in New Brunswick's climate?
3. How long does Trex composite decking last compared to cedar in New Brunswick?
4. What colours does AZEK PVC decking come in and which are most popular in New Brunswick?
5. Can I install Fiberon capped composite over my existing deck frame in Riverview?
6. Which composite decking brand has the best fade resistance for NB Maritime conditions?
7. Does composite decking get slippery in New Brunswick's winter ice and snow?
8. How hot does Trex decking get in the summer sun in Moncton NB?
9. What is the warranty on TimberTech composite decking sold in New Brunswick?
10. Can AZEK PVC decking handle heavy snow loads in Edmundston NB?
11. How much does a 12x16 Trex deck cost installed in Saint John NB?
12. What is the price difference between Trex Transcend and Trex Select in New Brunswick?
13. Does Fiberon composite decking hold up to Maritime humidity in Moncton?
14. How does TimberTech perform in freeze-thaw conditions in Fredericton NB?
15. Is Trex composite decking a good choice for New Brunswick winters?

What is the best composite decking for a dock or waterfront property in Miramichi NB?

AZEK PVC decking is the best choice for dock and waterfront applications in Miramichi, because it contains zero wood fibre and absorbs virtually no moisture, making it immune to the rot, swelling, and mould issues that affect wood-plastic composites in constant-splash environments. While standard composite decking works well for residential decks, waterfront installations face conditions that push materials harder, and PVC outperforms in those scenarios.

The critical difference between PVC decking and wood-plastic composite decking matters significantly on the Miramichi River and its tributaries. Standard composites from Trex, Fiberon, and TimberTech contain a blend of wood fibre and recycled plastic. The wood fibre content, typically around 50 percent, gives these boards a more natural feel and keeps costs lower, but it also means they can absorb small amounts of moisture over time, especially at cut ends and fastener points. On a waterfront property where the deck surface regularly encounters splashing, tidal spray, or pooling water from wet boats and gear, that moisture exposure is dramatically higher than on a typical backyard deck. Over years of this exposure, wood-plastic composites can develop surface mould, slight swelling at edges, and in severe cases, internal delamination.

AZEK's PVC boards contain no wood fibre whatsoever. The material is entirely synthetic polymer, which means it has a moisture absorption rate near zero. For a dock on the Miramichi where you are tying up boats, cleaning fish, hosing down surfaces, and dealing with spring freshet flooding, this zero-absorption characteristic is a major practical advantage. AZEK boards will not swell, will not develop mould within the material, and will not soften or degrade from prolonged water contact. The Vintage Collection in Coastline or Weathered Teak are particularly popular for waterfront builds in the Miramichi area because they complement the river landscape and hide water spots and fish-cleaning residue between washdowns.

If AZEK's price point is a concern, as it runs roughly \$10 to \$14 per linear foot for boards alone, TimberTech Advanced PVC is the closest alternative with similar zero-wood-fibre construction. Trex Transcend is a step down in waterfront suitability because it does contain wood fibre, but its cap layer is robust enough to handle moderate waterfront conditions on a deck that is not directly over water.

For the substructure of a Miramichi waterfront deck or dock, the framing material matters just as much as the surface. Pressure-treated lumber rated for ground contact or marine use is essential. Where dock pilings or supports enter the water, treated timber or steel pipe piles are the standard. Helical piles are an excellent option for shoreline foundations in the Miramichi area, running \$200 to \$500 per pile installed, and they work particularly well in the mixed gravel and clay soils common along the riverbank. They provide instant load-bearing capacity and

avoid the concrete-pouring challenges of working near the waterline.

Fastening on waterfront PVC decks should use stainless steel or coated screws rated for marine environments. Standard composite deck screws will corrode faster in the humid, salt-influenced air along the Miramichi estuary and Miramichi Bay. Hidden fastening systems are preferred because they eliminate exposed screw holes where water can pool.

Building permits are required in Miramichi for any dock or deck structure. Waterfront construction may also require approval from the New Brunswick Department of Environment and Local Government, particularly if the structure extends over or into the watercourse. Factor permitting timelines of four to eight weeks into your project planning.

Find a Deck Building Contractor

New Brunswick Decks connects you with experienced contractors through the <https://newbrunswickconstructionnetwork.com>:

- Hickory Dickory Decks Moncton ?
- Worry No More Handyman Services ?
- Duguay Construction ?

[View all fencing-decks contractors ?](#)

Q2

Do I still need to seal composite decking in New Brunswick's climate?

No, you do not need to seal modern capped composite decking in New Brunswick's climate, and doing so can actually void your warranty. Current-generation composite products from manufacturers like Trex, TimberTech, Fiberon, and AZEK are engineered with a protective polymer cap layer that serves the same function as a sealant, making additional surface treatments unnecessary.

The polymer shell on capped composite boards is designed to block moisture penetration, resist UV fading, and prevent staining from organic matter. In New Brunswick, where decks face heavy snow loads from December through March, spring rain saturation, and strong summer UV, this cap layer does all the protective work that stain and sealant do for natural wood. Applying a topical sealant over this cap can actually trap moisture between the sealant film and the board surface, creating a cloudy or peeling appearance, and manufacturers explicitly state in their warranty documentation that applying paints, stains, or sealants voids coverage.

There is one important distinction to make here. If you have an older uncapped composite deck, the situation is different. Early-generation composite boards sold in the mid-2000s and earlier did not have the protective cap layer. These older boards, which have a rougher, more porous surface texture, can absorb moisture and are susceptible to mould growth and fading. If your composite deck is from that era, it may benefit from a composite-specific sealant product. However, virtually all composite decking sold in New Brunswick since 2015 or so is the capped variety.

What you should do instead of sealing is maintain a basic cleaning routine. New Brunswick's climate creates conditions that promote organic growth on deck surfaces. The combination of humid summers, frequent fog along the Fundy coast, and leaf litter from fall creates an environment where mould and mildew can establish on the surface of composite boards. This growth sits on top of the cap rather than penetrating it, and it comes off easily with cleaning. A thorough wash twice per year, once in late April or early May after snow melt and again in mid-fall after the leaves drop, is sufficient for most decks in the province. Use a composite deck cleaner or a simple solution of warm water with a small amount of dish soap, applied with a soft-bristle brush. A pressure washer can be used on a fan tip setting below 3100 PSI, held at least 8 inches from the surface, but aggressive pressure washing at close range can damage the cap layer.

For decks in particularly shaded or damp locations, such as north-facing properties in the Saint John River Valley or wooded lots around Sussex and Hampton, you may need to clean three times per year to keep organic growth from becoming established enough to leave shadow stains. Oxygen bleach-based cleaners work well for stubborn mildew spots without affecting the cap layer.

The bottom line for New Brunswick homeowners is that sealing composite decking is not just unnecessary but counterproductive. The money you would spend on sealant is better put toward a quality composite deck cleaner and a good brush. That minimal investment of time and effort will keep a capped composite deck looking sharp through decades of Maritime weather.

Find a Deck Building Contractor

New Brunswick Decks connects you with experienced contractors through the <https://newbrunswickconstructionnetwork.com>:

- Larmondin Carpentry ?
- Hickory Dickory Decks Moncton ?
- Duguay Construction ?

[View all fencing-decks contractors ?](#)

How long does Trex composite decking last compared to cedar in New Brunswick?

Trex composite decking will last 25 to 50 years in New Brunswick's climate, while western red cedar typically lasts 15 to 20 years with consistent maintenance, making Trex the significantly longer-lasting option. This performance gap is driven almost entirely by how each material handles the province's harsh weather cycling, and the difference becomes more pronounced over time.

New Brunswick's climate is uniquely demanding on outdoor building materials. Decks in Moncton, Saint John, and Fredericton endure roughly 100 to 120 freeze-thaw cycles per year between late October and mid-April. Each cycle forces moisture trapped in wood fibres to expand and contract, which gradually breaks down the cellular structure of cedar. Even the highest-grade western red cedar begins showing surface checks, splits, and greying within the first two to three seasons if left unsealed. With diligent annual maintenance including cleaning, sanding, and reapplication of a penetrating UV-protective stain or oil, cedar can be pushed to the 15-to-20-year range before structural replacement becomes necessary. In practice, many New Brunswick homeowners fall behind on that maintenance schedule, and cedar decks in the province commonly show serious deterioration by year 10 to 12.

Trex composite decking, particularly the current-generation Enhance and Transcend lines, handles these same conditions without any of that upkeep. The boards have a polymer shell cap that fully encases the wood-plastic composite core, preventing moisture absorption. Since no water gets into the material, freeze-thaw cycling has essentially no degrading effect. Trex Transcend and Enhance carry 25-year fade and stain warranties and 25-year structural warranties, with expected real-world lifespans reaching 30 to 50 years depending on the product tier.

The cost comparison over time heavily favours Trex in New Brunswick. Cedar decking boards cost roughly \$3 to \$5 per linear foot, but you will spend \$200 to \$500 annually on stain, sealant, and cleaning supplies for a typical 14-by-20-foot deck. Over 20 years, maintenance costs alone add \$4,000 to \$10,000 to the cedar deck's total. Trex boards cost \$5 to \$12 per linear foot depending on the line, with Enhance Basics at the low end and Transcend Lineage at the premium end. Ongoing maintenance is limited to periodic soap-and-water cleaning, costing essentially nothing.

One area where cedar holds a slight advantage is underfoot feel during New Brunswick's brief but warm summers. Cedar stays cooler than composite in direct sunlight, and some homeowners prefer its natural texture. Cedar is also lighter to work with, which can matter for DIY projects. However, Trex has improved its heat management in recent product generations, and the lighter colour options in the Transcend line stay noticeably cooler than the darker shades.

For the structural framing underneath the deck surface, both materials still rely on pressure-treated lumber in New Brunswick, so the substructure lifespan is equivalent regardless of your decking choice. The real longevity

difference is in the walking surface and railings. If you are building a deck in New Brunswick and want a surface that will still look presentable in 2045 without annual refinishing weekends, Trex is the clear winner on durability. If you strongly prefer the look and feel of real wood and are committed to maintaining it every single year, cedar remains a viable but higher-effort choice.

Find a Deck Building Contractor

New Brunswick Decks connects you with experienced contractors through the <https://newbrunswickconstructionnetwork.com>:

- [R.e.j Construction ?](#)
- [Duguay Construction ?](#)
- [Hickory Dickory Decks Moncton ?](#)

[View all fencing-decks contractors ?](#)

What colours does AZEK PVC decking come in and which are most popular in New Brunswick?

AZEK PVC decking offers roughly 30 to 40 colour options across its product lines, with the Vintage and Harvest collections being the most popular choices among New Brunswick homeowners. The full AZEK lineup spans several collections, each designed around a different aesthetic. The Vintage Collection features premium colours like Coastline, Mahogany, English Walnut, Dark Hickory, and Weathered Teak, all with deep, multi-tonal wood grain streaking that closely mimics real hardwood. The Harvest Collection includes lighter, more traditional tones such as Brownstone, Island Oak, and Slate Gray. AZEK also offers the Landmark and Arbor collections, which round out the palette with additional earth tones and grey-family options.

In New Brunswick specifically, the colour preferences tend to follow the province's architectural character and natural surroundings. The most consistently popular AZEK colour here is Coastline from the Vintage Collection, a warm silvery grey that echoes the look of weathered Maritime lumber without any of the actual weathering problems. This makes sense given how many homes in Moncton, Saint John, and along the Fundy coast already feature grey or neutral-toned exteriors. Dark Hickory and English Walnut are strong second choices, particularly in Fredericton and the Saint John River Valley where homeowners lean toward richer, warmer wood tones that complement the surrounding forests.

Slate Gray from the Harvest Collection is another frequent pick, especially for more modern or contemporary builds. It pairs well with the darker siding colours that have become trendy in subdivisions around Dieppe and Riverview. For waterfront properties along the Miramichi or on the Acadian coast, lighter tones like Island Oak and Weathered Teak tend to get selected because they do not show sand, salt residue, or water spots as readily as darker colours.

One practical consideration for New Brunswick's climate is that darker AZEK colours will absorb more heat during July and August. On south-facing decks in the southern part of the province, very dark colours like Mahogany or Dark Hickory can become noticeably warm underfoot on peak summer afternoons. This is less of a concern in northern New Brunswick near Bathurst or Campbellton where summer temperatures are typically a few degrees cooler. If you are building a fully sun-exposed deck and plan to use it barefoot regularly, a mid-tone colour like Coastline or Brownstone is a practical compromise between appearance and surface temperature.

AZEK's PVC composition means the colour runs through the full cap layer and resists fading significantly better than many capped composites. In New Brunswick, where decks endure freeze-thaw cycling from late October through April and intense UV exposure during long summer days, this fade resistance matters. Most AZEK products carry a 50-year limited warranty that includes fade and stain coverage, which is among the strongest in the industry. The material itself does not absorb moisture, so unlike wood or even some composites, there is no

swelling, grain raise, or mould discoloration to worry about through the province's wet spring seasons. Pricing for AZEK in New Brunswick generally runs \$8 to \$14 per linear foot for the boards alone, depending on the collection and the specific dealer, with the Vintage Collection sitting at the higher end of that range.

Find a Deck Building Contractor

New Brunswick Decks connects you with experienced contractors through the <https://newbrunswickconstructionnetwork.com>:

- R.e.j Construction ?
- Hickory Dickory Decks Moncton ?
- Duguay Construction ?

[View all fencing-decks contractors ?](#)

Q5

Can I install Fiberon capped composite over my existing deck frame in Riverview?

You can potentially install Fiberon capped composite over your existing deck frame in Riverview, but only if the frame meets specific structural requirements, the most critical being 12-inch on-center joist spacing, which most older wood decks in the Riverview area were not built with. This is the make-or-break factor. If your existing joists are spaced at 16 inches on center, which was and remains standard for pressure-treated wood decking, you cannot simply lay Fiberon boards on top without modifying the frame first.

All composite decking products, Fiberon included, require 12-inch on-center joist spacing. This tighter spacing is necessary because composite boards are more flexible than wood boards of the same thickness. At 16-inch spacing, composite will flex underfoot, sag over time, and eventually suffer structural failure, particularly under the snow loads that Riverview decks carry through winter. This type of damage from improper joist spacing is explicitly excluded from Fiberon's warranty coverage, so even if the boards hold up initially, you would have no recourse if problems develop.

If your existing Riverview deck was built with 16-inch joist spacing, you have two options. The first is to add sister joists between the existing ones to bring the spacing down to 12 inches. This means installing a new joist between each pair of existing joists, effectively doubling the number of joists. This is a legitimate approach, but it adds

material cost and labour. The new joists must be the same dimensional lumber as the existing ones, typically 2x8 or 2x10, and they need to be properly attached to the beam and ledger board with joist hangers. The second option is to tear out the old frame and build new, which is more expensive but gives you a frame that is purpose-built for composite.

Beyond joist spacing, several other conditions of your existing frame need inspection before proceeding. The ledger board attachment to the house is the most important structural element. In Riverview's climate, with its freeze-thaw cycles and Maritime humidity, ledger boards on older decks are a common failure point. The ledger must be securely lag-bolted to the house's rim joist with proper flashing behind it to prevent water infiltration. If there is any rot, water damage, or loosening at the ledger connection, it must be repaired before new decking goes on top.

The posts and beams need inspection as well. Pressure-treated posts set directly in the ground, which was common practice in Riverview builds from the 1990s and early 2000s, may have significant below-grade rot even if they look fine at the surface. Posts should ideally sit on concrete footings with post bases that keep the wood above ground level. The concrete footings themselves must extend below the frost line, which in the Riverview and Greater Moncton area is approximately four feet deep.

The existing deck boards and any rotted or damaged components of the frame need to be fully removed before the new Fiberon boards go down. Composite decking requires a clean, level, structurally sound surface, and any warping or unevenness in the old frame will telegraph through the new boards.

Assuming your frame passes inspection and either already has or is modified to have 12-inch joist spacing, Fiberon capped composite will install over the existing substructure using hidden clip fasteners or face screws depending on the specific Fiberon product line. Fiberon Paramount, the premium capped line, is an excellent choice for Riverview given its moisture resistance and fade performance in Maritime conditions. Budget approximately \$45-65 per square foot for materials and installation if you are reusing the existing frame, compared to \$55-75 per square foot or more for a complete tear-down and rebuild.

Find a Deck Building Contractor

New Brunswick Decks connects you with experienced contractors through the <https://newbrunswickconstructionnetwork.com>:

- R.e.j Construction ?
- Larmondin Carpentry ?
- Eastbound Homes ?

[View all fencing-decks contractors ?](#)

Which composite decking brand has the best fade resistance for NB Maritime conditions?

The top-tier capped composites from Trex, TimberTech, and Fiberon all offer fade resistance exceeding 95 percent colour retention over 25 years, making the differences between premium lines marginal rather than dramatic for New Brunswick Maritime conditions. The honest answer is that at the premium tier, you are choosing between excellent, excellent, and excellent. Where meaningful differences emerge is between premium and mid-range products within each brand, and in how each warranty specifically addresses fading.

Trex Transcend is the benchmark that other products are often measured against in the New Brunswick market. It uses a multi-layer capping system that wraps the composite core on all four sides, and the cap itself contains UV inhibitors that block the solar radiation responsible for colour degradation. Trex backs Transcend with a 25-year fade and stain warranty, which is a firm commitment that the boards will retain their appearance for a generation. In New Brunswick's Maritime climate, where you get a combination of strong summer UV, salt air along the coast, high humidity, and heavy precipitation, that cap has to work hard, and by all available evidence it does.

TimberTech Pro uses a comparable capping technology and offers the same 25-year fade and stain warranty with a 50-year structural warranty. The capping process is slightly different in formulation but achieves the same result: a protective polymer barrier that shields the core from UV, moisture, and staining. TimberTech has been particularly aggressive about marketing their fade resistance data, and independent testing confirms that their premium products hold colour at rates comparable to Trex Transcend.

Fiberon Paramount rounds out the premium field with its own capped composite technology. Fiberon uses what they call their PermaTech cap layer, which like its competitors is designed to block UV penetration and resist fading over decades. Fiberon's warranty terms are competitive with the other two brands at the premium level.

AZEK, which is actually a sister brand to TimberTech under the same parent company, takes a different approach as a 100 percent PVC product. Because it contains no wood fibres at all, there is no organic material to break down under UV exposure, which gives it inherently strong fade resistance. AZEK runs \$55-85 per square foot installed in New Brunswick, making it the most expensive option, but its fade resistance is genuinely top-tier.

Where fade resistance drops off noticeably is in the mid-range lines from each brand. Trex Enhance, TimberTech Edge, and Fiberon's lower-tier products use thinner caps or less sophisticated UV inhibitor packages. They will still outperform wood by a wide margin, but if you compare a Trex Enhance board and a Trex Transcend board after 15 years of Maritime exposure side by side, the Transcend will have retained more of its original colour depth.

For New Brunswick specifically, colour selection interacts with fade resistance in a practical way. The lighter earth tones that are popular across the province, such as Gravel Path, Toasted Sand, and Island Mist, tend to show fading less visibly than darker colours simply because the change from a light warm tone to a slightly lighter warm tone is less perceptible than a dark brown fading to a medium brown. If absolute colour consistency over time is important to you, choosing a lighter premium-tier product gives you the best outcome.

All composite products benefit from the same basic care in Maritime conditions: clean twice a year with a composite deck cleaner to remove any surface buildup that could trap moisture against the cap. No sealing or staining is needed or recommended.

Find a Deck Building Contractor

New Brunswick Decks connects you with experienced contractors through the <https://newbrunswickconstructionnetwork.com>:

- [R.e.j Construction ?](#)
- [Duguay Construction ?](#)
- [Hickory Dickory Decks Moncton ?](#)

[View all fencing-decks contractors ?](#)

Does composite decking get slippery in New Brunswick's winter ice and snow?

Yes, composite decking does get slippery when ice forms on the surface during New Brunswick winters, just as any outdoor surface does, but the textured surface profile of modern capped composites provides better baseline traction than smooth wood or painted surfaces. The key is understanding that slipperiness on a deck in winter is primarily about ice formation, not about the decking material itself, and managing it requires the right de-icing approach.

New Brunswick winters bring a particular combination of conditions that create icy deck surfaces. Freezing rain events are common across the province, especially along the Fundy coast and in the Saint John River valley. Moncton, Fredericton, and Saint John all experience multiple freezing rain episodes per winter. Snow that partially melts during a mild day and then refreezes overnight creates a glaze of ice that is treacherous on any surface. And fog along the coast can deposit a thin film of moisture that freezes as temperatures drop, creating invisible black ice on deck boards.

Modern composite decking from Trex, TimberTech, and Fiberon all feature textured surface profiles that mimic wood grain. These textures provide meaningful traction improvement over smooth surfaces when the deck is simply wet. In light rain or when snow is freshly fallen and not yet compacted, the texture gives your feet something to grip. However, once solid ice forms, texture alone is not enough to prevent slipping. This is true of composite, wood, concrete, stone, or any other material.

The solution is proactive ice management, and this is where New Brunswick homeowners need to be careful about product selection. Calcium chloride is the recommended de-icing product for composite decking. It is effective at melting ice down to approximately minus 25 degrees Celsius, which covers the vast majority of New Brunswick winter conditions. Calcium chloride is gentle on composite surfaces and does not leave the damaging residue that other products can.

Rock salt, which is sodium chloride, should never be used on composite decking. Rock salt can leave white staining and residue on the board surface, and while it will not structurally damage the composite, it creates an aesthetic problem that is difficult to fully remove. Many New Brunswick homeowners use rock salt on their driveways and walkways out of habit and then track it onto their decks, so it is worth being mindful of this even if you are not deliberately applying salt to the deck surface.

Sand is another option for traction and is commonly used across New Brunswick. It does not melt ice but provides immediate grip on icy surfaces. The downside is that sand can get trapped in the textured grain of composite boards and requires more effort to clean in spring. A pressure washer on a low setting or a stiff broom handles this, but it is an extra step.

For snow removal, use a plastic shovel rather than a metal one. Metal shovels can scratch composite surfaces, especially when scraping compacted snow. A plastic shovel glides across the textured surface without causing damage. Snow blowers are also fine for composite decks as long as the intake is not set so low that it contacts the board surface.

One design consideration that helps with winter traction is choosing lighter composite colours like Gravel Path or Toasted Sand. Lighter colours absorb more solar heat relative to their appearance and can help melt thin ice layers faster on sunny winter days, though this effect is modest.

Find a Deck Building Contractor

New Brunswick Decks connects you with experienced contractors through the <https://newbrunswickconstructionnetwork.com>:

- R.e.j Construction ?
- Worry No More Handyman Services ?
- Eastbound Homes ?

[View all fencing-decks contractors ?](#)

Q8

How hot does Trex decking get in the summer sun in Moncton NB?

Dark-coloured Trex decking can reach surface temperatures above 50 degrees Celsius in direct Moncton summer sun, which is hot enough to be uncomfortable for bare feet and something every homeowner should factor into their colour selection. Moncton's summer temperatures regularly hit 30-33 degrees Celsius in July and August, and when direct sunlight beats down on a south-facing or west-facing deck for several hours, the surface temperature of the decking boards can climb 20 or more degrees above the ambient air temperature.

This heat buildup is a characteristic of all composite decking, not just Trex. Composite boards are made from a mix of wood fibres and plastic polymers, and plastic absorbs and retains heat more readily than natural wood. A pressure-treated wood deck in the same Moncton sun will also get warm, but composite surfaces consistently measure 5-10 degrees hotter than wood under identical conditions. This is the most frequently cited drawback of composite decking and one that deserves honest discussion.

Colour choice is the single biggest factor you can control. Dark colours like Lava Rock or Vintage Lantern absorb significantly more solar radiation than lighter shades. The earth tones that are popular across New Brunswick, such as Gravel Path, Toasted Sand, and Island Mist, are lighter options that stay measurably cooler. The difference between a dark brown Trex board and a light tan Trex board in the same sun exposure can be 8-12 degrees Celsius, which is the difference between uncomfortable and tolerable for bare feet.

Deck orientation matters considerably in Moncton. A south-facing deck receives the most sustained direct sun throughout the day and will reach peak temperatures in the early to mid-afternoon. A west-facing deck gets hammered by intense late-afternoon sun during the hottest part of the day. North-facing and east-facing decks naturally stay cooler because they receive less direct exposure during peak heat hours. If you are designing a new deck and heat is a concern, orienting the primary seating area to receive afternoon shade from the house or mature trees makes a noticeable difference.

Partial shade solutions are worth considering for Moncton decks that get full sun. A pergola over the main seating area, a shade sail, or strategic planting of fast-growing trees on the south or west side of the deck can reduce surface temperatures substantially. Even dappled shade from a single large tree can drop composite surface temperatures by 10-15 degrees.

It is worth noting that the heat issue is seasonal and situational. Moncton's truly hot, sunny days are concentrated in a roughly eight-week window from late June through mid-August. For the other ten months of the year, including the long New Brunswick winter when you might actually appreciate a surface that absorbs heat, the thermal properties of composite are either neutral or mildly beneficial. On a cool September afternoon, a composite deck in the sun is pleasantly warm underfoot.

The heat does not damage the decking material itself. Trex Transcend and Trex Enhance are both engineered to handle temperature extremes, and the capped surface prevents thermal degradation. The heat is purely a comfort issue for people and pets using the deck barefoot during peak summer conditions. Keeping a pair of deck shoes or sandals near the door handles the problem for most Moncton homeowners, and a quick spray with the garden hose drops surface temperature almost instantly when you want to use the deck barefoot.

Find a Deck Building Contractor

New Brunswick Decks connects you with experienced contractors through the <https://newbrunswickconstructionnetwork.com>:

- R.e.j Construction ?
- Larmondin Carpentry ?

- Eastbound Homes ?

[View all fencing-decks contractors ?](#)

Q9

What is the warranty on TimberTech composite decking sold in New Brunswick?

TimberTech's premium Pro line carries a 25-year fade and stain warranty along with a 50-year structural warranty, making it one of the strongest warranty packages available on composite decking sold in New Brunswick. The TimberTech Edge line, which is the mid-range product, carries a proportionally shorter warranty but still significantly exceeds anything offered on pressure-treated lumber, which typically comes with no performance warranty at all beyond the preservative treatment itself.

Understanding what these warranties actually cover, and what they exclude, is essential for New Brunswick homeowners before making a purchasing decision. The 25-year fade and stain warranty on the Pro line means TimberTech guarantees the board surface will not excessively fade, stain, or discolour under normal residential use for a quarter century. Given that New Brunswick decks face Maritime sun exposure, salt air along the Fundy coast, heavy precipitation, and sustained humidity, this is a meaningful commitment from the manufacturer. The newer capped composite products like TimberTech Pro resist fading by over 95 percent across 25 years, so the boards you install today will look remarkably similar in 2051.

The 50-year structural warranty covers the integrity of the board itself, guaranteeing it will not split, crack, rot, or suffer structural failure from normal use and weather exposure over five decades. For context, a pressure-treated wood deck in New Brunswick typically starts showing significant deterioration within 8-12 years even with annual maintenance, and most are replaced entirely within 15-20 years. A 50-year structural warranty fundamentally changes the economics of deck ownership.

However, there are important exclusions that New Brunswick homeowners must understand. The most critical one is that TimberTech's warranty does not cover structural damage resulting from improper installation. This specifically includes incorrect joist spacing. All TimberTech composite products require 12-inch on-center joist spacing. If your deck is built with 16-inch spacing, which is standard for wood decks and a common shortcut taken by contractors unfamiliar with composite requirements, any sagging, flexing, or board damage that results will not be covered. This is the single most common reason composite deck warranty claims are denied across the industry.

The warranty also requires that the decking be installed according to TimberTech's published installation guidelines, including proper gapping for thermal expansion, adequate ventilation beneath the deck surface, and the

use of approved fastener systems. New Brunswick's temperature range, which can swing from minus 30 degrees Celsius in winter to plus 35 degrees in summer, causes composite boards to expand and contract measurably. If expansion gaps are not left during installation, the boards can buckle, and that damage falls outside warranty coverage.

To keep your warranty valid, TimberTech requires reasonable maintenance, which for composite decking is minimal. Cleaning twice per year with a composite deck cleaner addresses any mildew or dirt buildup that Maritime humidity encourages. No sealing, staining, or painting is needed, and in fact applying such products could void the warranty. For winter care, use calcium chloride for ice removal rather than rock salt.

Warranty claims are handled directly through TimberTech and typically require proof of purchase, installation date, and photos of the issue. Keeping your purchase receipts and a copy of your contractor's installation details is worthwhile insurance for a product that is warranted to last half a century.

Find a Deck Building Contractor

New Brunswick Decks connects you with experienced contractors through the <https://newbrunswickconstructionnetwork.com>:

- [Hickory Dickory Decks Moncton ?](#)
- [Eastbound Homes ?](#)
- [Larmondin Carpentry ?](#)

[View all fencing-decks contractors ?](#)

Can AZEK PVC decking handle heavy snow loads in Edmundston NB?

AZEK PVC decking handles heavy snow loads in Edmundston without any structural concerns, provided the substructure underneath is built to proper specifications for the region's significant snowfall.

Edmundston sits in northwestern New Brunswick where annual snowfall averages over 300 centimetres, and it is not unusual for decks to carry sustained snow loads of 40-60 pounds per square foot through the deepest parts of January and February. The AZEK boards themselves are not the weak link in this equation. The framing beneath them is what must be engineered correctly.

AZEK is a 100 percent PVC product, not a wood-plastic composite like Trex or TimberTech. It contains no organic material whatsoever, which makes it completely moisture-proof. This is a significant advantage in Edmundston's climate, where heavy snow sits on the deck surface for months at a time and then goes through repeated melt-freeze cycles in spring. Water cannot penetrate AZEK boards, period. There is no absorption, no swelling, no freeze-thaw cracking. For a northern New Brunswick location like Edmundston, this is about as good as it gets from a material durability standpoint.

The critical installation requirement is 12-inch on-center joist spacing for the substructure. This applies to all composite and PVC decking products, AZEK included. The 12-inch spacing gives the boards proper support and prevents flexing under load, which is especially important when you have a heavy, wet snow load sitting on the deck for extended periods. If a contractor installs AZEK over joists spaced at 16 inches, the boards can sag between the joists under sustained weight, and this type of structural damage is explicitly not covered under AZEK's warranty.

AZEK runs \$55-85 per square foot installed in the New Brunswick market, making it the most expensive decking option available. For Edmundston homeowners, the premium over standard capped composites like Trex Enhance at \$45-55 per square foot is justified in specific situations. Waterfront properties along the Madawaska River, covered porches that trap moisture, or decks built very close to grade where snowmelt pools against the boards are all scenarios where AZEK's total moisture imperviousness provides meaningful extra protection.

AZEK is also the lightest decking product on the market, which makes handling and installation easier but has no real impact on snow load performance. The snow load capacity is determined by the substructure, not the decking surface. A properly built frame with 12-inch joist spacing, adequate beam sizing, and properly spaced footings will handle Edmundston's worst winter without issue regardless of whether AZEK, Trex, or TimberTech sits on top.

For winter maintenance in Edmundston, use a plastic shovel for snow removal and calcium chloride for ice management. Never use rock salt, which can leave white residue on the PVC surface. AZEK's textured surface provides reasonable traction when wet, but ice will form on it just as it forms on any surface, so traction

management through the winter is still necessary. No sealing or staining is ever needed, and twice-yearly cleaning with a composite deck cleaner keeps the surface in top condition. AZEK carries strong warranty protection, and because the PVC material is inherently rot-proof, it is an excellent long-term investment for the demanding Edmundston climate.

Find a Deck Building Contractor

New Brunswick Decks connects you with experienced contractors through the <https://newbrunswickconstructionnetwork.com>:

- Hickory Dickory Decks Moncton ?
- Larmondin Carpentry ?
- Duguay Construction ?

[View all fencing-decks contractors ?](#)

Q11

How much does a 12x16 Trex deck cost installed in Saint John NB?

A 12x16 Trex deck installed in Saint John typically costs between \$8,640 and \$14,400, depending on which Trex product line you choose and the complexity of your specific project. That 192-square-foot deck footprint is one of the most common sizes in the Saint John market, and pricing breaks down fairly predictably based on the tier of Trex product selected.

The Trex Enhance line, which is the mid-range capped composite, runs approximately \$45-55 per square foot fully installed in the Saint John area. That puts a 12x16 Enhance deck in the \$8,640 to \$10,560 range for a straightforward, single-level build with standard railing. The Trex Transcend line, which is the premium capped composite with superior colour depth and fade resistance, costs approximately \$60-75 per square foot installed, bringing that same 12x16 footprint to \$11,520 to \$14,400.

These installed prices include the composite decking boards, hidden fasteners, composite or aluminum railing, the pressure-treated lumber substructure, concrete footings, all hardware, and labour. What they generally do not include are permits, significant site preparation, stairs beyond a single short flight, or unusual structural requirements like helical piles for challenging Saint John soil conditions.

What Drives Costs Up in Saint John

Several factors specific to Saint John can push a 12x16 deck project above these baseline numbers. Elevation is a major one. Many Saint John homes sit on rocky, sloped lots, particularly in neighbourhoods like Millidgeville, the South End, and areas overlooking the harbour. An elevated deck that requires posts, cross-bracing, and additional structural engineering can add \$3,000 to \$8,000 or more to the project depending on height. Multi-level designs, wrap-around configurations, and built-in bench seating also increase costs.

The substructure is always pressure-treated lumber, even when the decking surface is composite. This framing must use 12-inch on-center joist spacing for all Trex composite products, which is tighter than the 16-inch spacing used for wood deck surfaces. The tighter spacing means more joists and more lumber, which adds roughly 10-15 percent more material cost to the frame compared to a wood deck frame. This is non-negotiable as Trex's warranty requires proper joist spacing and will not cover structural issues caused by incorrect installation.

Labour costs in Saint John have increased over the past few years as demand for skilled deck builders has grown while the trade workforce has tightened across New Brunswick. Getting multiple quotes is important, but be cautious about any bid that comes in dramatically below the ranges listed above, as that often indicates the contractor is planning 16-inch joist spacing or cutting corners on footings.

For context, a comparable 12x16 deck built with pressure-treated lumber in Saint John would run roughly \$30-40 per square foot installed, or about \$5,760 to \$7,680. That is cheaper up front, but within three to five years you will be spending \$300-500 annually on staining and sealing, and the boards will likely need replacement within 12-15 years. The Trex deck, by contrast, needs no sealing or staining, just a twice-yearly cleaning with composite cleaner, and carries a 25-year fade and stain warranty with a 50-year structural warranty on the Transcend line. Over 20 years, the total cost of ownership between wood and composite often converges.

Find a Deck Building Contractor

New Brunswick Decks connects you with experienced contractors through the <https://newbrunswickconstructionnetwork.com>:

- Worry No More Handyman Services ?
- Hickory Dickory Decks Moncton ?
- Larmondin Carpentry ?

[View all fencing-decks contractors ?](#)

Q12

What is the price difference between Trex Transcend and Trex Select in New Brunswick?

Trex Transcend runs approximately \$60-75 per square foot fully installed in New Brunswick, while the Trex Enhance line (which replaced Select in most markets) sits in the \$45-55 per square foot range installed, putting the real-world price gap at roughly \$15-20 per square foot. For a typical 300-square-foot deck, that translates to a difference of \$4,500 to \$6,000 in total project cost across the province, whether you are building in Moncton, Fredericton, or Saint John.

The reason for the price difference comes down to the cap technology and board profile. Trex Transcend is the company's premium capped composite, meaning it has a thick polymer shell that fully encases the composite core on all four sides. This cap is what gives Transcend its superior fade resistance, stain resistance, and overall longevity. Transcend boards resist fading by over 95 percent across 25 years, which matters in New Brunswick where Maritime sun exposure combined with salt air and heavy precipitation can punish lesser materials. Transcend also carries a 25-year fade and stain warranty backed by a 50-year structural warranty.

The Enhance line is Trex's mid-range product that still offers capped composite performance but with a thinner cap and fewer colour options. It is a solid deck board that handles New Brunswick's freeze-thaw cycles well because, like all composite, it does not absorb water the way pressure-treated lumber does. For many New Brunswick homeowners, Enhance hits the sweet spot between price and performance. You still get a low-maintenance deck that never needs staining or sealing, you still get good fade resistance, and you still get a product that will not crack and split after a few winters.

Where Transcend pulls ahead is in aesthetics and long-term colour retention. The premium colour options like Spiced Rum and Island Mist have deeper, more realistic wood-grain patterns that closely mimic tropical hardwoods. The Enhance colours are attractive but less nuanced. If your deck is a prominent feature of your home, say a large elevated deck overlooking the Petitcodiac River or a wraparound deck on a Fundy shore property, the visual difference may justify the premium.

Both lines require 12-inch on-center joist spacing for proper installation in New Brunswick. This is non-negotiable with composite decking and is tighter than the 16-inch spacing used for wood decks. If a contractor quotes you composite installation at 16-inch spacing, that is a red flag. Improper joist spacing causes sagging and flexing that voids the warranty.

Neither Transcend nor Enhance requires sealing or staining at any point in its lifespan. Cleaning twice per year with a composite cleaner handles any mildew or dirt buildup that Maritime humidity encourages. For ice management in winter, use calcium chloride rather than rock salt on either product.

The bottom line for New Brunswick homeowners is that Enhance gives you roughly 85 percent of the Transcend experience at 65-75 percent of the cost. If budget is the primary concern, Enhance is a genuinely good product. If you want the best colour options and maximum long-term fade resistance, Transcend is worth the premium.

Find a Deck Building Contractor

New Brunswick Decks connects you with experienced contractors through the

<https://newbrunswickconstructionnetwork.com>:

- [Hickory Dickory Decks Moncton ?](#)
- [Duguay Construction ?](#)
- [Eastbound Homes ?](#)

[View all fencing-decks contractors ?](#)

Does Fiberon composite decking hold up to Maritime humidity in Moncton?

Fiberon composite decking holds up very well to Maritime humidity in Moncton because capped composite boards do not absorb moisture the way wood does, making humidity essentially a non-issue for the material itself. Moncton's location in the Petitcodiac River valley means summer humidity regularly pushes past 80 percent, and the proximity to the Bay of Fundy adds salt-laden moisture to the air for much of the year. These conditions are brutal on pressure-treated wood, which absorbs that moisture, swells, and then cracks as it dries, repeating the cycle until the boards fail. Fiberon's capped composite construction avoids this entirely.

Fiberon's premium line, Fiberon Paramount, is a capped composite that competes directly with Trex Transcend and TimberTech Pro in the New Brunswick market. The capping process wraps the composite core in a protective polymer shell that blocks moisture penetration from all sides. This is what makes the product viable in a climate like Moncton's, where humidity, rain, fog, and freeze-thaw cycles would otherwise conspire to destroy decking material within a few years.

The freeze-thaw performance is particularly relevant. Moncton sees well over 100 freeze-thaw cycles per winter, and because Fiberon composite does not absorb water, there is no internal moisture to freeze, expand, and crack the boards from within. This is the single biggest advantage composite has over wood in Maritime New Brunswick.

Installation in Moncton requires the same standards as anywhere in the province. All Fiberon composite boards need 12-inch on-center joist spacing, which is tighter than the 16-inch spacing typical of wood decks. This is critical because improper joist spacing is the most common cause of composite deck failure, and warranties do not cover structural damage caused by incorrect installation. Make sure any contractor you hire in the Moncton area understands this requirement before work begins.

One area where Moncton's humidity does play a role is surface mildew. High humidity can encourage mildew growth on the surface of any outdoor material, composite included. This is cosmetic rather than structural, and it comes off easily with a composite deck cleaner applied twice a year. This is far less maintenance than the annual sanding, staining, and sealing that a wood deck in Moncton demands.

For colour selection, the earth tones that are popular across New Brunswick work well with Moncton homes. Colours like Gravel Path and Toasted Sand blend with the natural landscape and tend to show less surface dirt between cleanings. Lighter colours also stay cooler in summer, which matters because dark composite colours can reach temperatures above 50 degrees Celsius in direct summer sun. If your Moncton deck gets full afternoon sun exposure, a lighter Fiberon shade will be noticeably more comfortable underfoot.

For winter maintenance, use calcium chloride for ice removal rather than rock salt, which can leave residue on the surface. Fiberon's textured surface profile provides some traction in wet conditions, but ice will still form just as it would on any material. Overall, Fiberon Paramount is well-suited to the Moncton Maritime climate and will significantly outlast wood in the same conditions.

Find a Deck Building Contractor

New Brunswick Decks connects you with experienced contractors through the <https://newbrunswickconstructionnetwork.com>:

- R.e.j Construction ?
- Hickory Dickory Decks Moncton ?
- Larmondin Carpentry ?

[View all fencing-decks contractors ?](#)

Q14

How does TimberTech perform in freeze-thaw conditions in Fredericton NB?

TimberTech performs exceptionally well in Fredericton's freeze-thaw conditions because its capped polymer construction does not absorb moisture the way natural wood does, which is the root cause of freeze-thaw damage. Fredericton typically experiences over 100 freeze-thaw cycles between late October and mid-April, and this constant fluctuation between freezing and thawing is what destroys pressure-treated lumber from the inside out. Wood absorbs water, that water freezes and expands, and over a few seasons the boards crack, split, and warp. Composite decking like TimberTech sidesteps this problem entirely.

TimberTech offers two main lines you will find through New Brunswick dealers. The TimberTech Pro line is a premium capped composite that sits in the same performance tier as Trex Transcend, running roughly \$60-75 per square foot installed in the Fredericton area. The TimberTech Edge line is a mid-range option that still provides excellent freeze-thaw resistance at a lower price point. Both lines use a protective polymer cap that wraps around the board's core, creating a barrier that prevents moisture from penetrating into the composite material underneath.

One critical installation detail that directly affects how TimberTech handles Fredericton winters is joist spacing. All composite decking, TimberTech included, requires 12-inch on-center joist spacing. This is tighter than the 16-inch spacing commonly used for pressure-treated wood decks. If your installer uses 16-inch spacing, the boards can flex

and sag over time, especially when heavy snow loads sit on the deck for weeks during a Fredericton winter. This kind of structural damage from improper joist spacing is not covered under TimberTech's warranty, so it is essential to get this right from the start.

TimberTech's warranty coverage is strong. The Pro line comes with a 25-year fade and stain warranty along with a 50-year structural warranty, which speaks to the company's confidence in the product surviving decades of Maritime winters. The Edge line carries a proportionally shorter warranty but still far exceeds what any wood product can offer.

For winter maintenance in Fredericton, you should know that while TimberTech resists moisture damage, ice will still form on the surface just as it does on any outdoor material. Use calcium chloride for ice management and avoid rock salt entirely, as rock salt can leave residue and potentially discolor the surface. A plastic shovel works fine for snow removal. You do not need to seal, stain, or treat TimberTech at any point, which eliminates the annual maintenance chore that Fredericton homeowners know all too well with wood decks. A twice-yearly cleaning with a composite deck cleaner is all that is required to keep the boards looking fresh.

The earth-tone colours that sell well in the Fredericton market, such as Gravel Path and Toasted Sand, also happen to be lighter shades that stay cooler in summer and show less wear over the years. TimberTech's newer capped products resist fading by over 95 percent across 25 years, so the colour you choose at installation is essentially the colour you will still have two decades later. For Fredericton's climate specifically, TimberTech is one of the strongest composite choices available.

Find a Deck Building Contractor

New Brunswick Decks connects you with experienced contractors through the <https://newbrunswickconstructionnetwork.com>:

- R.e.j Construction ?
- Larmondin Carpentry ?
- Worry No More Handyman Services ?

[View all fencing-decks contractors ?](#)

Q15

Is Trex composite decking a good choice for New Brunswick winters?

Trex composite decking is an excellent choice for New Brunswick winters, handling the province's freeze-thaw cycles, heavy snow loads, and prolonged moisture exposure significantly better than natural wood decking in virtually every measurable category. Modern Trex products specifically address the challenges that make Maritime winters so punishing for outdoor structures, and the material has a strong track record across thousands of installations in comparable Canadian climates.

The fundamental advantage Trex holds over wood in New Brunswick's winter conditions is its resistance to moisture absorption. Natural wood, even when pressure-treated, absorbs water through its end grain and surface, and when that water freezes it expands within the wood cells, causing the splitting, checking, and surface degradation that New Brunswick homeowners know all too well after a few winters. Trex boards are manufactured from recycled wood fibre and polyethylene, wrapped in a protective polymer shell cap that prevents moisture from penetrating the core. Without moisture absorption there is no internal ice formation, and without ice formation there is no freeze-thaw damage. This single property explains why a Trex deck in Edmundston or Bathurst can look virtually identical after ten winters to how it looked when installed, while a pressure-treated wood deck in the same location shows significant surface deterioration.

New Brunswick's snow loads, ranging from 2.0 kPa in southern coastal areas around Saint John to 3.5 kPa in the upper Saint John River valley near Edmundston, are well within Trex's structural capacity when boards are installed on properly spaced joists. Trex specifies 16-inch joist spacing for residential installations, the same standard used for wood decking, and at this spacing the boards support combined snow and live loads without deflection concerns. The material does not become brittle in extreme cold the way older-generation composites did, maintaining structural properties well below the -30C to -35C lows that New Brunswick's interior occasionally experiences.

Trex offers three product tiers in the New Brunswick market, each handling winter conditions with equal reliability but differing in aesthetics and price. Trex Select is the entry-level line at approximately \$40 to \$50 per square foot installed, featuring a clean single-colour appearance. Trex Enhance occupies the middle tier at \$45 to \$55 per square foot, offering multi-tonal colour streaking that mimics natural wood grain. Trex Transcend is the premium offering at \$60 to \$75 per square foot, with the deepest colour variation and highest scratch resistance. All three use the same protective shell cap technology, so winter performance is consistent across the range.

Snow removal on Trex is notably easier and less damaging than on wood. The smooth capped surface allows snow shovels to glide across the boards without catching on splinters, raised grain, or surface checks. Calcium chloride and sodium chloride ice melters, which can aggressively damage and discolour wood, are safe to use on all current Trex products according to the manufacturer's guidelines, which matters considerably in New Brunswick where icy deck surfaces are a safety concern from November through March.

The thermal expansion and contraction of Trex through New Brunswick's temperature range is the one winter-related property that requires careful installation practice. Composite boards expand and contract more than wood with temperature changes, and in a province where surface temperatures can swing from -30C to +50C in direct sun across the year, that movement is significant. Trex specifies precise gapping requirements between board ends, typically 3/16 to 1/4 inch depending on the installation temperature. Failing to leave adequate expansion gaps is the most common installation error on composite decks in New Brunswick and results in boards buckling or lifting in summer heat. This is an installation quality issue rather than a material deficiency, which underscores the importance of working with a builder experienced in composite installation. Trex backs their products with a 25-year limited residential warranty covering both structural integrity and material defects including fading and staining, with no exclusions for freeze-thaw, snow load, or Maritime exposure conditions.

Find a Deck Building Contractor

New Brunswick Decks connects you with experienced contractors through the <https://newbrunswickconstructionnetwork.com>:

- [R.e.j Construction ?](#)
- [Eastbound Homes ?](#)
- [Worry No More Handyman Services ?](#)

[View all fencing-decks contractors ?](#)

Disclaimer: This guide is provided for informational purposes only by New Brunswick Decks. It does not constitute professional advice. Always consult qualified, licensed contractors and your local building authority before starting any deck building or renovation project. Information is current as of March 22, 2026 and may change. Visit newbrunswickdecks.com for the latest answers.