

Information about Ipe



Pronounced “ee-pay”, Ipe is a wood from South America that is a perfect material choice for outdoor site furnishings. It naturally resists harsh weather, heavy use, rot, abrasion and insects.

Aesthetics

Ipe varies in color from reddish brown to an olive-brown. Over time this wood will weather to a silver grey. The wood will display fine to medium grains and texture. The grains vary from straight to irregular, even interlocking. The Ipe wood used in Thomas Steele commercial site furnishings comes in a natural finish. A timber oil is applied to the wood before it leaves our facility.



Ipe with Oil



Weathered Ipe

Performance and Durability

Three times harder than oak, Ipe is incredibly dense and durable. This wood is rated as very resistant to rot and has excellent insect resistance.

Like any wood, small surface cracks and some checking may result from exposure to temperatures and the elements. The surface cracks have no affect on the structural integrity of the wood. Checking will be minimal. A primary reason this material is used for site furnishings.

Maintenance

If letting the wood fade to its natural silver, the wood will only need to be sealed upon installation. To keep the original color, sealer will need to be applied annually, at a minimum.

For cleaning, use soapy water and a stiff brush to loosen impediments. Then rinse clean. Heavily weathered Ipe can be restored through sanding and an application of oil.

