

For immediate release:
April 7, 2006

Contact:
Gary Maulin, Product Manager
(800) 426-8430 or (253) 572-3033

McFarland Cascade offers solid deck solution
Xtendex® holds up to the environment, treats it well

TACOMA, Wash.—Tired of faded, splintering and even moldy decking options? McFarland Cascade's Xtendex® composite deck system provides a completely wood-free choice that installs in up to half the time.

Manufactured with rice hulls, the husks left over from harvested rice, Xtendex combines principals of conservation with practical engineering and ease of use. Because the product contains no wood, it is naturally resistant to mold, mildew and fading and will not splinter, crack or delaminate. Xtendex also features McFarland Cascade's patented Quick Clip system for easy installations that can take up to half the time of traditional decks—all without visible nails or screws.

“Xtendex allows us to offer a superior decking solution to the builder and consumer, even while we protect the environment and reuse rice hulls, an agri-fiber that's in abundant supply,” said Gary Maulin, product manager of McFarland Cascade.

The product also stands up to the demands of weather. “From cold and wet climates to dry and hot conditions, rice hulls help Xtendex to consistently outperform wood and wood-based composites,” said Maulin.

To create Xtendex, McFarland Cascade employed its patented compounding process, blending 60 percent rice hulls and virgin High Density Polyethylene (HDPE). The result of the process makes Xtendex the first true composite decking system in the marketplace.

Because of its high silica content and plentiful cellulose fiber, rice hulls make Xtendex more resistant to moisture and staining. While many available composites deck materials are made of 50 percent wood fiber or more, Xtendex is completely wood-free, making it a stronger, longer-lasting product. The consumer does not need to be concerned about biocides and preservatives, which are typically used in wood fiber composites. In addition, Xtendex is naturally mold and mildew resistant because it contains no digestible nutrients.

Available in three profiles, Xtendex deck boards are highly engineered hollow core profiles that are lightweight and cooler underfoot, yet stronger than most solid composites.

– more –

The Classic profile deck board, which is widely available in retail outlets, features a contemporary, ribbed design on one side and a wood grain design on the other. The special order Traditional and Architectural profiles are comprised of solid boards. Both the Classic and Architectural profiles install with the Quick Clip system.

The notched G-trim, into which the deck boards fit, allows board expansion and contraction to occur out of view. In addition to its installation benefits, the Quick Clip system also helps to compensate for the linear expansion and contraction of the deck boards, eliminating buckling.

The Xtendex building system offers three hand and stair rail kits to customize decks for the desired appearance. The Traditional, Roma and Venetian styles are available in Cedar, Redwood and gray finishes. The package includes everything required for installation—six-foot sections of straight rail and staircase rail, as well as instructions and fasteners.

Xtendex is building code compliant and has passed rigorous testing for National Evaluation Service certification, validating its strength and consistent performance. The product carries a 20-year pro-rated warranty. McFarland Cascade introduced Xtendex nine years ago and has continued to perfect the manufacturing process to deliver a superior product. The company also markets the Classic profile under the Edeck name.

McFarland Cascade—the outdoor projects people—enhances the quality, style and comfort of exterior home projects. A manufacturer and distributor of pressure-treated consumer lumber, composite decking and other products that are sold through quality retailers throughout the West, the company began as a producer of poles and pilings in Sandpoint, Idaho in 1916.

#