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**Wood-free decking now available for industrial use**  
*McFarland Cascade offers composite decking for marine, architectural, other industrial uses*

**Tacoma, Wash.**—When using treated lumber for projects such as piers, docks and foot bridges, project managers must sometimes contend with extensive environmental regulations.

Now, McFarland Cascade offers another longer-lasting choice for industrial and marine projects. With structural integrity that meets structural standards for the U.S. Navy, Universal Marine Materials (UMM) offers a composite decking choice that will not rot, splinter or crack. In addition, UMM decking materials will not leach or bleed chemicals into the environment.

The Wood Material Engineering Laboratory (WMEL) at Washington State University in Pullman developed the product with Madison, Wis.-based Strandex Corp. for the Office for Naval Research. “We developed UMM to replace components on docks and piers where owners prefer to avoid chemical treatments to resist decay,” said Michael Wolcott, a professor of civil engineering at WSU and the research director at WMEL.

It is made from a combination of finely ground sawdust, recycled plastic and special additives. Because it isn’t treated, the product is a desirable choice when planners want to avoid permitting delays. “When using UMM, builders and developers won’t have to go through a time-consuming environmental permitting process that comes into play when using treated lumber,” said Gary Maulin, sawn products manager of McFarland Cascade.

Saving time during the course of a project is only the beginning of UMM’s benefits:

- The virtually maintenance-free product never needs stain or painting because of its specially patented material formulation that resists stains and discoloration.
- UMM is UV protected and maintains uniform color retention with only moderate fading.
- The grey weather-resistant PVC cap offers consistent appearance long after traditional wood decks crack, splinter and age.
- Pressure washing is the only necessary maintenance in order to retain its like-new appearance.

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- The slip-resistant properties allow for safer cargo handling and safer foot traffic in inclement weather.

The patented clip installation system offers more appearance and safety benefits. An alternative to unsightly and dangerous screws or nails on the surface, the clip system reduces installation time and costs. It also allows for expansion and contraction of the decking.

Flexural testing of the product shows bending stiffness and strength required for long spans and load bearing construction. Spanning longer than wood, it is available in lengths up to 24 feet.

UMM recently was used for a footbridge spanning 90 feet at the Rattlesnake Wilderness and National Recreation Area in Missoula, Mont. It also has been used for various demonstration projects at the University of Pennsylvania and at WSU. It also will be installed for a 300-foot wave screen sheltering a marina at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md.

For more information about UMM, or to receive McFarland Cascade's catalogue featuring its complete line of products, call (800) 426-8430 or download it online at [www.mcfarlandcascade.com](http://www.mcfarlandcascade.com).

*At McFarland Cascade, the best outdoor projects start with the best materials. A manufacturer and distributor of pressure-treated lumber, composite decking and other products, the company began as a producer of poles and pilings in Sandpoint, Idaho in 1916.*

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