



Craft

Composite materials

Wood

Maintenance

Maintenance	Maintenance free	Requires washing every 1-2 years	Regular, for example requires treatment
Cleaning	Easy to clean	Easy to clean, excl. e.g. red wine and grease	More complex to clean
Painting/treatment	None required, finished look without painting	None required	Requires periodic painting or treatment
Stain repellent	Stain free, does not absorb dirt	Stains occur (e.g. red wine and grease), absorbs dirt	Stains occur, absorbs dirt
Post-installation treatment	No separate treatment required	No separate treatment required	Separate treatment required

Weatherproofness

Moisture absorption	Does not absorb moisture	Absorbs some moisture (depending on the material's wood content)	Absorbs moisture
Mold repellent	Mold free	Mold may occur	Mold may occur
Rotting	Rot free	Rot free	Rots
Cracking	Crack free	Crack free	Cracks
UV-resistance	High UV-resistance	High UV-resistance	Low UV-resistance
Heat	Somewhat hotter as compared to wood in direct sunlight	Somewhat hotter as compared to wood in direct sunlight	Depends on the treatment applied and the wood used
Slipperiness	Does not become slippery in wet conditions	Does not become slippery in wet conditions	Does not become slippery in wet conditions
Frost-resistance	Stiffens with cold	Becomes more brittle with cold if the composite material is hollow and PVC raw materials have been used	Stiffens with cold
Splinters	Splinter free	Splinter free	Splinters occur easily

Use

Visual life-span of terrace	Long, approximately 15+ years	Approximately 8-15 years	Approximately 3 years
Lifelong limited warranty	26-year warranty upon normal use	Up to 25 years of limited warranty, depending on the manufacturer	Mostly none, depending on the manufacturer
Expenditure over a 10-year period	More affordable than wood, saves the user time and money	More affordable than wood, yet not as durable as Neular	Requires constant maintenance and in the long run renders more costly than alternative options

Material

Material	100% polymerous	40% - 60% polymerous, 40% - 60% wood dust	100% wood
Structure	Solid material	Depends on the manufacturer, most products are hollow	Solid material
Environment-friendliness	Made of reused household plastic, 100% recyclable	Made of a wood-plastic mix (mostly, primary pure plastic raw material or industrial plastic PVC are used), mostly recyclable	Non- recyclable
Toxicity	Non-toxic (made of household plastic waste)	Depends on the raw material used	Non-toxic, wood maintenance products are mostly toxic