



February 2010 Newsletter

Decks can kill!



Image from Archicentre press Release



Image Courtesy of BSA

The pictures show the terrible impact of *she will be right* design and use of the wrong timber. According to the Archicentre there could be as many as 8,000 of these ***potentially fatal*** balconies or decks throughout Australia. Archicentre are not talking about sub-standard decks but life threatening decks!! To help you identify if your deck is at risk we have provided links below to reports on collapsed decks - as the last thing we want is for your deck to make headlines.

We know that timber decks are perfect for the Australian lifestyle and while they look easy to build, there are actually several important design elements that need to be considered. You may be interested to learn that Outdoor Structures Australia decking systems were independently assessed and recognised by the joint federal and state government initiative, the Advanced Technology Showcase. So if you want to design/build a deck with confidence, download our free **LifePlus Decking Guide**. This is a highly detailed, 24 page instruction guide on how to build a deck using current best practice. Follow it to the letter and you will be rewarded with a deck that not only looks good but is safe and long lived.

We have all heard reports of deck collapses, sometimes fatal. Late last year there was a collapse in Perth and in Morayfield and in November 2008 there was a very high profile fatality at Hamilton. Links to reports on the collapses at Hamilton and Morayfield are found at the end of this newsletter. These will help you be better informed if you ever have to inspect an existing deck. Unfortunately we have not been able to find a technical report on the Perth deck.

The Archicentre press release highlights the problem of inappropriate timbers in deck construction. Most have come to terms with no longer using Oregon pine in their construction but some people are still using Durability 2 Above Ground timbers (generally an old Durability Class 3 species). The end result is the same; it just takes longer to happen.

We look forward to your questions and the opportunity to quote.

Regards,

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LINKS

LifePlus Decking Guide

http://www.outdoorstructures.com.au/pdf/lifeplus_decking_guide_4.pdf

Report on Fatal Deck Collapse at Hamilton, Brisbane

http://www.outdoorstructures.com.au/deck_collapse/failed_deck_hamilton_qld.pdf

Interim report on Deck collapse at Morayfield near Brisbane

http://www.outdoorstructures.com.au/deck_collapse/deck_collapse_morayfield_qld.pdf

ABC news article on deck collapse at Perth November 2009

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/11/01/2729752.htm>

Press release by Archicentre on potentially fatal decks

http://www.outdoorstructures.com.au/deck_collapse/dangerous_decks_press_release.pdf

Advanced Technology in Timber decking award to OSA

http://www.outdoorstructures.com.au/pdf/ats_certificate.pdf



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