



Universal Forest Products®

News release

-----AT THE COMPANY-----

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Latitudes Marine Composite Decking

Latitudes® Launches Composite Board for Marine Applications

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich., Jan. 15, 2009 – Universal Forest Products (Nasdaq: UFPI), makers of Latitudes® Composite Decking and Railing, announces the addition of Latitudes Marine composite decking. Latitudes Marine decking navigates innovation with composite dock boards specifically designed for use at marinas, on boardwalks, on floating docks or for applications where thicker, more robust boards are desired.

Latitudes Marine decking is fortified with the same proven Strandex® technology used in all Latitudes composite products. Strandex has a long and proven track record of durability and strength, including years of technical development of products for U.S. naval waterfront facilities.

Available in gray, cedar, redwood and walnut, Latitudes Marine dock boards are barefoot-friendly, slip-resistant and have a reversible brushed/woodgrain surface. What's more, Latitudes Marine boards are moisture resistant and will not splinter, split, cup or rot, providing long-lasting beauty and comfort with no sealing, painting or staining required. Latitudes Marine decking comes with a 10-year limited commercial warranty and a 15-year limited residential warranty.

“Our new marine board is strong and durable, and gives marine and dock builders a great alternative that looks better and lasts longer than traditional deck and marine dock boards,” says Dick Gauthier, VP of marketing for Universal Forest Products.

Latitudes Marine is thicker and more robust than typical composite deck boards and is engineered for use on wide joist spacing. Latitudes Marine decking dimensions are 1.25" x 5.4375" x 16', with a profiled appearance designed for marina decking where a maximum of 24" on-center joist spacing is needed.

Universal Forest Products engineers, manufactures and markets wood and wood-alternative products for DIY retail home centers; structural lumber products for the manufactured housing industry; engineered wood components for the site-built construction market; and specialty wood packaging and components for various industries. The company's consumer products division includes wood and wood-composite decking and railings, decorative balusters and post caps, and other outdoor living products for the spectrum of tastes and budgets. To learn more about Latitudes Composite Decking and Railing products, call 877-463-8379, e-mail latitudes@ufpi.com or log on to www.latitudesdeck.com. For more information about Universal Forest Products, visit www.ufpi.com.

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