

Dear Folks at Starboard,

My name is Tom Carnahan and I recently purchased some your decking material through Uresco in Wasilla, Alaska. I would like to tell you our story. My wife Sharon and I had built a new home 3 years ago and at the time we used standard treated wood on the deck that ran along the south-facing portion of the house. I have been very unhappy with how poorly it has held up. It has spit and twisted and I was not excited about the prospect of trying to maintain it. I had been thinking about replacing it with some other product.

There was a smaller deck off of the kitchen that we had not been able to build because of the need to construct a retaining wall first. This summer my son was home from college so I decided to hire him to help me get some projects done around the house. We built the retaining wall and were able to put in the footers for this new deck. We completed all of the framing and I was over at Uresco talking with Briggs about what to use for the decking. He recommended this product that they carried called Starboard. I really liked the look of it and we were able to get the color we wanted. He said that it was stronger and cheaper than most of the other composite decking materials on the market. I remember that Briggs pointed out that Starboard was the only product that had a fire rating. I must admit that at the time I didn't give that much thought. Anyway, I figured this would be a good test and if we liked it we would replace the rest of the deck.

My son and I finished installing the decking on Saturday afternoon. We were so excited about finally having this deck off of the kitchen that we moved the deck table and chairs onto it right away. We lit a citronella candle and placed it on a plate on the table to keep the bugs away. That evening our kids wanted to take us out to dinner to celebrate our anniversary. We left the house about 6 PM and returned around 8:30. As we were driving up the driveway, I could see smoke coming from the corner of the house where the new deck was. We hurried up the hill and as we rounded the corner, I could see flames about a foot tall coming off of our new deck. The deck table was a puddle of flaming plastic and flames were licking up the legs of the adjacent chairs. We were able to extinguish the flames with a garden hose.

Apparently the pot that the candle was in broke and allowed the candle wax to flow onto the table catching it on fire. The amazing part was that the new Starboard decking was charred but had not caught fire. I am convinced that if the table had been sitting on any other decking material our house would have been severely damaged or burned to the ground. To say the least we are very grateful that we decided to use your product and I have highly recommended it to all of my friends. We will definitely replace all of our other decking with this product. Thanks again.

Tom & Sharon Carnahan
Wasilla, Alaska