

REFACING EDGES OF OLD DECKS Project Difficulty:

Easy

Estimated Project Time: **Varies with size of deck**

Tools and Materials:

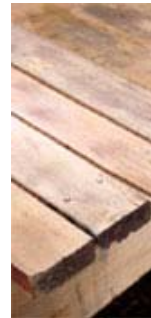
Safety goggles
Dust mask
Measuring tape
Chalk-line box
2x2 or 2x4 pressure-treated wood edging
Circular saw
Hammer
Screwdriver
Galvanized nails or screws
Block plane or belt sander and sandpaper
2" paintbrush
Stain
Wood preservative/sealer

Decks never look so good as they do on the day they are nailed down. Redw their rosy hues, flat boards start to twist, and smoothly sanded surfaces start the weather. Even if you have periodically resealed the deck, it may finally b repairs.

Carefully inspect the open-grain ends of the wood planks; moisture and wea great deal. The wood absorbs the moisture and in most cases will eventually meantime the dampness has caused the wood to expand and contract, resulti warping, and even splitting. Freezing temperatures make water-related prob After time, the edge of the deck can look pretty rough. Sometimes the remed cracked edge and reface it with a border of new wood.

1. Measure the Overhang

To reface the edges of old decking and provide a new edge support, first measure the amount of overhang beyond the joists. (Fig. 1)



2. Mark the Cutting Line



Using a chalk-line box, snap a line to guide your cut. Include a large part of the damaged area, but be sure the line is not inside the supporting joist. (Fig. 2)

3. Remove the Edge

Using a circular saw, cut off the edges of the boards, working freehand and following the marked chalk line. Don't use a rip fence that would ride unevenly along the rough edge of the deck. (Fig. 3)



4. Seal the Cut Ends



Apply a wood preservative/sealer to the cut ends of the boards, following the instructions that accompany the product you are using (Fig. 4). Open-grain ends of boards can soak up a lot of moisture, often deteriorating quickly if not treated with a preservative/sealer.

5. Attach the Border

Set a 2x2 wood edging along the cut ends (or a 2x4 edging to create more of a border). Secure the border by driving at least one galvanized nail or screw into each board. (Fig. 5)



6. Finish the Border



Use a block plane or belt sander to dress the seam between the new edging and the decking; then stain and seal to suit. (Fig. 6)
