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Outdoor Living Made Easy with Lezzer Lumber

By Kathy Hunt

Most people associate the arrival of summer with time spent outdoors, lounging by a pool, grilling with family and friends, or relaxing in the sun or shade with a good book or beverage. Back in the chill and darkness of winter, the lazy days of summer sounded so idyllic. Now, as homeowners stare down at cracked and weed-studded patios, sagging decks, loose porch railings, and insect-or bird-damaged windowsills, summertime starts to feel more like a season of expensive, time-consuming tasks than one of leisure.



When the thought of exterior refreshers and renovations starts to ruin the summer fun, Lezzer Lumber is there to help. With 12 retail locations in Allegheny, Berks, Butler, Chester, Lancaster, Lehigh, and Northampton counties, Lezzer Lumber makes planning and shopping for outdoor projects easy. Plus, its recently launched outdoor living campaign offers competitive pricing on decking and railings as well as updated showrooms in Butler, Curwensville, DuBois, Indiana, Pennsdale, Reading, and Stockertown. Set up as design centers, the indoor and/or outdoor showrooms feature such items as exterior columns, decking, shutters, and siding.

Family-owned for three generations, Lezzer Lumber opened its first location in Curwensville, Pennsylvania, in 1927. Back then, it was called Sandri-Lezzer Lumber and Farm Equipment in honor of its founders Michael Lezzer and his cousins Louie and Charlie Sandri. Today, Lezzer Lumber is the 27th largest

building-supply materials distributors in the United States according to *LBM Magazine*. In addition to its 12 retail locations, it operates commercial door facilities in Lancaster, State College, and Williamsport, and has a truss manufacturing plant that makes roof, floor, and custom trusses in Curwensville.

Guidance on the newest hot trend, outdoor living

According to a May 2025 report from Realtor.com, over the past few years, and as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, interest in outdoor living has soared. The term “outdoor living” refers to outside spaces designed to serve as entertainment or relaxation areas. Occasionally referred to as “outdoor living rooms,” these are places where homeowners can host parties or just unwind outside.



Designers, contractors, and realtors agree that more people are adding features such as patios and porches, outdoor kitchens, and landscaping to their properties. The National Association of Realtors Research Group reported that, in 2023, these renovations were adding not only enjoyment but also value to people's homes. At that time, homeowners could expect a 95-percent cost recovery on new patios and 100-percent cost recovery on outdoor kitchens and landscaping.

Countless home design and contractor websites, podcasts, and videos promote the outdoor living trend, encouraging homeowners to create, or beautify existing, outside spaces. From erecting fences and installing hardscaping to building patios and exterior kitchens, living, and dining areas, all boast the merits of these efforts not only for current leisure activities but also for future resale. What they often don't mention, though, is how to get started on these projects.

When Lezzer Lumber customers start thinking about sprucing up or adding an outdoor feature, the very first thing that they should consider is cost, said Kaethe Huber, manager of Lezzer Lumber's Reading-area store at 3171 Morgan Road in Mohnnton. She has been with the company since 2007. At Mohnnton, she is aided with day-to-day, store needs by her "great assistant manager, Renee Reeser."

Huber said that customers should have a budget in mind. "Because we have so many options, a budget helps us narrow down what products to show," she said.



When coming up with a budget for a deck or other outdoor addition, customers should think about the structure's size, design, materials, and amount of labor needed. The larger and more complex the construction, the more materials and labor required. In general, labor will account for two-thirds of a project's cost. Those skilled at DIY can keep their budgets smaller and costs in check by doing most, if not all, of the work themselves.

In advance of visiting Lezzer Lumber, customers may also want to figure out color schemes and find images or make rough sketches of their design idea. Knowing the desired outcome of the project is also quite useful.

"Having an idea about the end result, about what they're looking for, helps us

point the customer in the right direction," Huber said.

Providing honest guidance and assistance to its customers is part of the company's mission. Its knowledgeable staff has been trained to understand the importance of outstanding customer service and how to achieve it. Whether a customer has scheduled an appointment, requested a quote in advance, or just walked in off the street, each person is treated with the utmost consideration.

Huber noted that at Lezzer Lumber, the sales staff can devote more time and attention to walk-ins. "We have a sales team at the counter who deals with the retail customers and contractors as soon as they come in," she said. "Once we

make an initial contact with contractors, we have outside salespeople who work directly with them. Overall, we're able to give a bit more attention to customers because of being family-owned and the way we're set up."

Its contractor sales teams offer such services as material take-offs and estimating, job site visits, delivery coordination and scheduling, and design assistance. Additionally, the teams keep contractors up-to-date with new products and can arrange supplier meetings. Huber added that contractors can open a charge account with Lezzer Lumber and receive competitive prices on work staples as well as specialty items.

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Trex, Timber Tech, and other options for outdoor structures

Along with a budget and general idea of what they want to accomplish, customers may want to consider what wanders through their neighborhoods or settles in their yards when they're not outside. They need to think about wildlife and what damage birds, carpenter bees, squirrels, raccoons, and other animals and insects can inflict on a new outdoor feature.

"We have customers come in with woodpecker problems, so, even though we carry cedar for decking and siding, wood won't be the best option for those with woodpecker issues," Huber said. "They'd benefit from our composite and PVC deck and siding options."

Lezzer Lumber carries Trex and competing composite brands such as Azek's Timber Tech and Westlake Royal's Zuri Premium Decking. None of these brands' products require painting or staining. All come in a variety of colors and promise durability, fade-resistance, and low maintenance.

Despite their similarities, each brand differs slightly from the other. Known as the inventor and leader in composite decking, Trex makes its eco-friendly boards with 95-percent recycled plastic film and reclaimed wood sawdust. Containing approximately 85-percent recycled plastic, Timber Tech's boards are capped on all



four sides to protect them from moisture. Zuri's Premium Decking is crafted from cellular composite, or PVC, and possesses the look of exotic hardwood.

To meet a range of customer budgets, Lezzer Lumber carries different product levels and price points within each brand. The following sale prices are in effect through July 5: Trex Enhance® is an entry-level composite product at \$2.25 per lineal foot while Trex Select®, at between \$4.15 and \$4.75 per lineal foot, is considered mid-range. Trex Transcend® ranks as luxury decking at \$6.25 per lineal foot. Timber Tech offers eight collections that feature different grains, colors, weights, and fire-zone performances. Zuri's Premium Decking comes in six colors and as square or grooved boards. For pricing



on Timber Tech and Zuri products, visit, email, or call one of Lezzer Lumber's retail locations listed on its website, <https://www.lezzerlumber.com>.

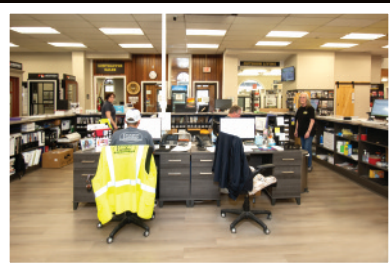
As mentioned previously, Lezzer Lumber also sells cedar and treated lumber decking. In spite of having such a wide assortment of decking materials from which to choose, Huber said that most customers opt for the decking material that's been popular since the 1970s — pressure-treated lumber. The Environmental Protection Agency reported that until the early 2000s, the majority of wood used in outdoor residential settings was chromated arsenical-treated wood. Due to its toxicity, in 2002, this type of pressure-treated lumber was phased out and replaced by wood treated with a copper-based preservative, alkaline



copper quaternary (ACQ), which doesn't contain arsenic.

"Most people are still doing pressure-treated decks," Huber said. "Not many choose to do cedar because of its price and yearly maintenance. If they want to get away from treated lumber, then they look at composites. Lower maintenance, like not having to paint, and warranties are usually the two driving factors in what people choose to use for their decks," she said.





Versatile, new Lezzer Lumber product for landscaping and more

In addition to great deals on decking materials, Lezzer Lumber's outdoor living campaign delivers a new product to its customers, BestPLUS plastic lumber. Based in Jeannette, Pennsylvania, BestPLUS manufactures affordable plastic lumber containing 98-percent recycled plastic. It is privately-owned subsidiary of the environmental services company Triumverate Environmental. All of its products are made in the U.S.

Eco-friendly, weather- and insect-resistant, and impervious to rot and decay, BestPLUS plastic lumber can be used for a range of ground-contact scenarios, including garden edging, raised garden beds, planters, walkways, hardscaping, retaining walls, outdoor steps, fences, and posts, and on playgrounds and even in bocce courts. It can serve as a durable substitute for wood in benches, palettes, tables, and truck and trailer scuff boards. Its reusable CONform™, a flexible plastic form, can replace traditional wooden forms in concrete flatwork. BestPLUS plastic lumber is both versatile and reasonably priced.

The plastic lumber comes in two colors, black and brown. Those who prefer cedar or gray can special order these colors, but minimum quantities will apply.



In stock at Lezzer Lumber's Mohnton location are BestPLUS 3-inch by 5-inch by 8-inch rounded landscape timber, 4-inch by 4-inch by 8-inch timber, and 6-inch by 6-inch by 8-inch timber. All other dimensions can be ordered or transferred from another store. It takes a week for the plastic timber to arrive.

Lezzer Lumber ships to anywhere in Pennsylvania, Delaware, and New Jersey and to parts of New York, Maryland, and Ohio. Long-time customers know not to waste time worrying about goods being damaged during transit. The company's dedicated shippers and drivers know how to safely pack and transport all manner of materials.



Even more in store for its customers

As part of its outdoor living campaign, Lezzer Lumber is highlighting its wood, chain link, composite, capped PVC, aluminum, and pressure-treated wood railings as well as vinyl and aluminum railings and kits from rdi® Railing. It also has vinyl siding and soffits from Westlake Royal Building Products, engineered wood siding from LP® Building Solutions, and stock metal siding, and Atlas Pinnacle shingles treated with Scotchgard™ Protector-treated. This protects the shingles against algae, which can cause stains and black streaks on a home's roof and exterior walls.

Along with numerous product lines, Lezzer Lumber provides such services as the aforementioned contractor sales as well as commercial sales for developers and professional builders and installed sales. Installed sales deal with complete framing packages for exterior doors and

windows for new construction projects. They also cover the installation of siding, insulation, cabinets, countertops, decks, windows, and interior and exterior doors.

Lezzer Lumber also supplies customized millwork. Its Lancaster-based mill and trim shop creates such custom millwork as stock boards and molding profiles. Working with all wood species as well as PVC, the shop can craft the following custom items: cabinetry, libraries, and entertainment centers; fireplace mantels and surrounds; interior or exterior doors; entrance, window, and door trim; exterior rail, balusters, posts, and brackets; raised-panel wainscot; columns and ceiling beams; and straight or curved stairways with pre-fit rail and baluster.

For additional information about the services, products, sales, and locations of Lezzer Lumber, or to follow the company on such social media platforms as Instagram, Facebook, Pinterest, and YouTube, visit the website <https://www.lezzerlumber.com/>.



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