

# EVOLVEDDECKS™

## *Harden your Home with EvolvedDecks™*

Living in the Sierra foothills, wildfire is an ever-present danger. Did you know that combustible roofs, sidings, and decks are the main reasons that homeowners lose their fire insurance? Decks are an important feature of outdoor living in Nevada County. But you don't have to sacrifice your deck for insurance purposes; EvolvedDecks™ can help!

EvolvedDecks™ was started right here in Nevada County by Rodger Mann in 2010. He moved to Nevada County in 1992 and spent decades working as a general contractor. "I saw that decks were a big deal, and I wanted to supply something that homeowners wouldn't need to replace due to dry rot," Mann said. "Early in my career I had experience using steel framing inside commercial buildings and I asked other contractors, 'Why isn't someone building decks with steel?' Then I woke up one morning and said, 'I can build the framing from steel! No one is doing that!' The business evolved as a way to improve structural integrity; now it's about home hardening for fire safety and no maintenance."

EvolvedDecks™ specializes in custom deck design and creating light-gauge steel deck frame kits. The homeowner chooses the decking and railing they want to customize the deck; Mann recommends composite, aluminum or tile to increase the fire resistance. Non-combustible building materials are recommended by the Nevada County Fire Safe Council, and Mann is hoping insurance companies will get on board to offer reduced premiums or other benefits for homes with EvolvedDecks™.

Unlike wood, EvolvedDecks™ are fireproof, insect resistant, incredibly stable, and last a lifetime, as opposed to the 10–15-year lifespan of most wooden decks. "With steel, you don't have to treat it or stain it, and this is



part of home hardening. "During a wildfire, it's like having a wick outside your house if you have a wood deck," Mann said. "Also, if you are planning to sell your house, you have to get signed-off on a fire safety evaluation, and having an EvolvedDecks™ steel deck frame goes a long way toward peace of mind for home buyers."

For many years, Mann has been doing the work to install the decks himself, but could only do an average of six per year as a one-man operation. Due to increased demand, he has been teaching other general contractors how to install these modern marvels, which do not require any new tools or equipment.

All decks, both wood and steel, must go through permit approval in Nevada County.

Wanting to expedite that process for the customer, in addition to their custom design services, EvolvedDecks™ has recently begun offering a pre-designed, pre-engineered kit. The kit is for one 10'x12' steel deck frame that can be installed near the ground and can hold up to 7000 lbs. Everything that a contractor or skilled homeowner needs to complete the framing (in one day) is delivered right to the job site, so there is no hassle for anyone involved.

*To learn more, or to get a free estimate, visit [evolveddecks.com](http://evolveddecks.com) or call (530) 270-9050.*