

# Products

**Efficient Lights.** Feit Electric's *Performance LED* lamps come in many sizes and require only 10 percent of the energy needed by comparable incandescents, says the maker. They have an expected life of 30,000 hours and achieve full brightness immediately. The 16-watt



PAR 38 lamp shown — a common size for can lights — puts out 710 lumens and is intended to replace a 75-watt incandescent bulb. It costs about \$60.

**Feit Electric**, 800/543-3348, [feit.com](http://feit.com).

**Better Grip.** Bulky wood or plastic deck and porch railings may not meet code requirements for stairways and access ramps — or furnish a very comfortable grip. The new *Endurance* series graspable handrail from Railing Dynamics mounts to many types of railing assemblies and is IBC-, IRC-, and ADA-compliant in spans up to 6 feet. It features black or white vinyl-clad aluminum tubing, angle-adjustable end fittings, and aluminum mounting brackets. Sections come in 80-, 104-, and 120-inch lengths. The rail shown would cost about \$175.

**RDI**, 800/488-7245, [rdirail.com](http://rdirail.com).



**Modified Wood.** Titan Wood Limited's Accoya pine lumber has been treated with a concentrated form of vinegar in a process called acetylation.

According to the manufacturer, this modifies the chemical composition of the wood without adding toxins, making it inedible to insects and rot-causing microorganisms. The company also says the treated wood resists moisture and lasts 50 years or more in exterior applications. For decks, 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch-by-6-inch boards are available in lengths up to 16 feet at a cost of \$6 to \$7 per board foot.

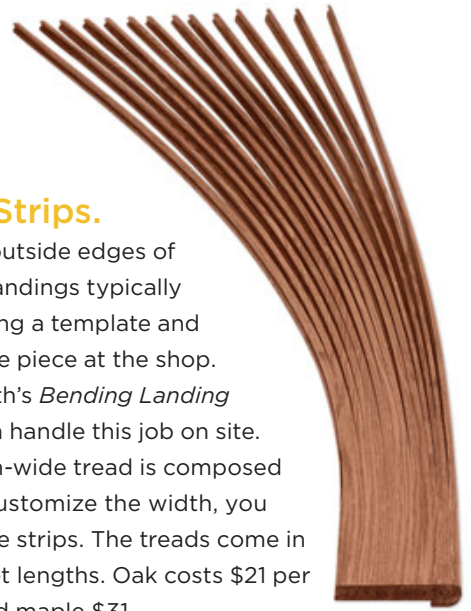
**Titan**, 972/233-6565, [accoya.com](http://accoya.com).



## Flexible Strips.

Building the outside edges of curved stair landings typically involves making a template and fabricating the piece at the shop. With L.J. Smith's *Bending Landing Tread* you can handle this job on site. Each 5 $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch-wide tread is composed of strips; to customize the width, you add or remove strips. The treads come in 12- and 16-foot lengths. Oak costs \$21 per linear foot and maple \$31.

**L.J. Smith Stair Systems**, 740/269-2221, [ljsmith.net](http://ljsmith.net).



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**Easy Hand Shower.** Kohler's *Flipside* hand shower offers four distinct spray patterns. To select a pattern, the user simply pivots the head into position; each spray uses a separate nozzle. Sold in three handle styles with a brushed nickel or polished chrome finish, the shower starts at around \$80.

**Kohler**, 800/456-4537, kohler.com.



**Cap it Off.** *Retro Treads* are solid hardwood stair tread caps designed to cover existing treads that were originally carpeted. They come with the front nosing attached; its 1 1/4-inch depth is meant to completely cover the structural treads beneath. Return nosings are cut to length and glued in place by the installer. The caps come in red and white oak, maple, hickory, poplar, and Brazilian cherry; red oak treads cost \$29 each and return nosings \$6.

**Young**, 800/545-6595, youngmanufacturing.com.

**Dirt Drive.** Adding *PolyPavement* soil solidifier to dirt creates a waterproof drivable surface, says the maker, providing a ready alternative to asphalt and concrete paths, drives, and parking



areas. The acrylic polymer compound can be applied in different concentrations for various levels of durability; it can be sprayed on loose dirt to control erosion and prevent plant growth, for instance, or mixed with soil and compacted to accommodate heavy traffic. It costs \$25 per gallon.

**PolyPavement**, 323/954-2240, polypavement.com.

**Bendable Boards.** You can bend *Cold-Bend* hardwood boards without steaming, says the maker. That's because they were already steamed during manufacturing, then compressed in length, a process that "accordions" the long grain fibers and makes them flexible. Shipped and stored wet, the boards don't take a set until they dry out. They come in 10 hardwood species in dimensions up to 8/4 by 6 inches and lengths up to 8 feet 4 inches. Most species cost \$24 dollars per board foot; cherry and walnut cost \$37.

**Fluted Beams**, 253/495-4747, extremewoodbending.com.



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**Fiberglass Frames.** Fiberglass windows are stronger than vinyl, insulate better than aluminum, and cost less than solid wood, say manufacturers. Serious Materials' entry-level fiberglass line, the *SeriousWindows 525 Series*, features foam-insulated frames and optional wood-clad interiors, and includes several styles of fixed and operable windows with R-values from 4.0 to 5.9. Prices start at \$40 per square foot (\$53 for wood-clad units).

**Serious Materials**, 800/797-8159, [seriouswindows.com](http://seriouswindows.com).



**Just a Touch.** Delta's *Pilar Waterfall* faucet turns on or off with a touch anywhere on its handle or spout. If left running, it will shut off automatically after four minutes to prevent wasted water or flooding. It comes in chrome, stainless, and bronze finishes starting at \$280.

**Delta**, 800/345-3358, [deltafaucet.com](http://deltafaucet.com).

**Plastic Protection.** Co-extruded decking is made with a plastic shell that makers say resists staining and fading better than solid composite decking. Trex says it leaves the plastic off the bottom of *Transcend* boards so that moisture can escape and the surface can accept adhesives. The 1-inch-by-5½-inch decking is made in four colors and costs about \$3 per linear foot. Matching fascia and railing components are also available.

**Trex**, 800/289-8739, [trex.com](http://trex.com).



**Extension Handles.** It can be tricky to fit window treatments on hinged glass doors because stock door handles — especially levers — may not provide enough clearance space. RAK's *X-10-DOR* 7/8-, 1½-, and 2⅜-inch handle extensions are sized for cellular shades, blinds, and shutters respectively. They fit many brands of multipoint mortised door locks and some single-point locks. Sold in various finishes, the brass extensions start at \$50 each.

**RAK**, 866/391-0367, [X-10-dor.com](http://X-10-dor.com).

