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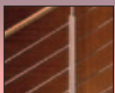
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READERS' TIPS

Best techniques from the field

Ledger Drainage

by John Robinson

I live in Oregon, and we get plenty of rain here. To help my deck ledgers dry out, I place wide grooves in the bottom of the first deck board — the one next to the house — laid out so the grooves fall in the middle of each set of joists. The grooves are only $\frac{5}{8}$ inch or so deep but are long enough to clear the $1\frac{1}{2}$ -inch-thick ledger board. They help prevent water from getting trapped by giving it multiple spots to drain. I do the same thing at the open end of the deck to keep water from getting trapped between the last deck board and the fascia. I have used this detail as a sales tool, too, letting my customers know that it's over and above what my competition does.

John Robinson owns Quality Residential Construction in Albany, Ore.



In the bottom of the deck board that's next to the house, and again in the board adjacent to the fascia, the author cuts grooves that will land above each set of joists so that water can drain away.

This Tip wins a DeWalt DCF885L2 20-volt impact-driver kit. ❖

Tips

We want your best deck-building tips. We're partnering with DeWalt to give away a power tool each issue to the reader who sends the best tip to aengel@hanleywood.com. The prize for the November issue is a 20-volt impact-driver kit. So, write up those tips. Don't sweat the grammar or the spelling — that's what editors get paid for. Take a photo (your camera's best setting, please), or send a sketch on the back of a napkin.

