

PRODUCTS

Column Wraps

Quickly dress posts with PVC

by Scott Gibson

CertainTeed says its new pre-cut and pre-mitered column wrap is quick to install: Position it around a structural post, swing one side closed, and seal it shut with adhesive. You're done.

Made from cellular PVC with a smooth, white finish that can be painted, the Restoration Millwork column wraps come in two widths — 8 inches and 10 inches — and with two cap and base trim styles. They are meant to wrap either a 4-inch-by-4-inch or a 6-inch-by-6-inch



load-bearing post. The standard height is 9 feet, but CertainTeed says they can be “stretched” to handle 10-foot heights or cut to 8 feet.

Wraps, which have a Class A flame-spread rating and come with a 25-year warranty, are compatible with any of CertainTeed's EverNew vinyl or composite railings. A detailed installation guide is available at the company's website.

Deck builders should expect to pay between \$215 and \$265 per column.

Scott Gibson is a freelance writer in East Waterboro, Maine.

■ **CertainTeed**, 800/233-8990, certainteed.com.

Portable Deck

Hardwood tiles are easy to disassemble

Taking aim at a “rental-dominated” housing market that values portability, DeckWise offers hardwood decking squares that can be installed quickly and disassembled should the owners want to take their deck with them when they move.

The Bradenton, Fla., company offers the prefabricated decking panels in three species of wood — ipe, tigerwood (goncalo alves), and cumaru. Ipe squares are available with either a smooth or an anti-slip surface.

Tiles are installed on a flat surface with the help of polyethylene connectors, which incorporate integral spacers that keep gaps between tiles uniform, as well as pins that prevent the tiles from moving around.

Connectors are available in black, brown, and gray and can be cut in halves or quarters with a utility knife for use along edges or in corners.

Tiles are 20 inches square and about 1 $\frac{1}{8}$ inches thick, with



ipe tiles also available in a 24-inch-square size with a smooth surface. Those are about 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches thick.

Suggested retail prices are \$23 for the tigerwood and cumaru, and \$24 or \$40 each for the ipe, depending on size. Connectors cost \$203 for a case

of 78 pieces and can be purchased individually.

DeckWise makes a number of other decking-specific building products, including hidden fasteners, screws, and a board straightener for installing decking. — S.G.

■ **DeckWise**, 866/427-2547, deckwise.com.

For more information about these products, go to <http://exteriorproducts.hotims.com>.

PRODUCTS

Cable Connectors

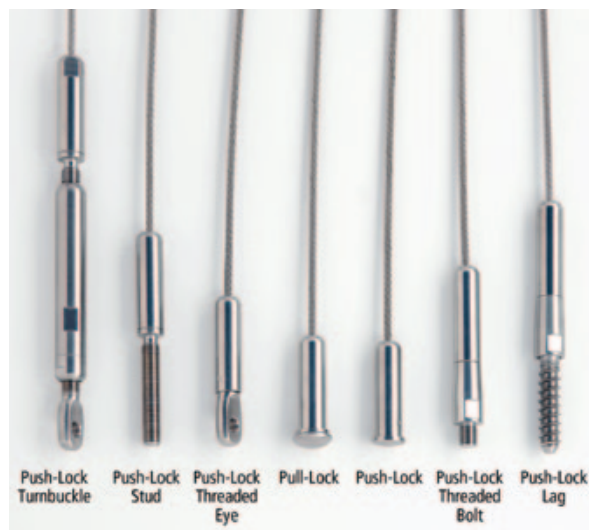
Company redesigns $\frac{3}{16}$ -inch Push-Locks

The Cable Connection has re-introduced its $\frac{3}{16}$ -inch Ultra-tec Push-Locks four years after it suspended sales to work out some kinks in the design.

Until 2008, the company offered similar connectors for both $\frac{1}{8}$ -inch and $\frac{3}{16}$ -inch cable railing systems. But there were enough failures with the $\frac{3}{16}$ -inch version that the company decided to re-examine the design.

The problem was that $\frac{3}{16}$ -inch cable compresses much more readily than $\frac{1}{8}$ -inch cable, so the locking mechanisms were not interchangeable. After reworking and testing the product, the company is confident it will be as reliable as its $\frac{1}{8}$ -inch cousin.

The new connectors come in seven different versions, the same as those for the $\frac{1}{8}$ -inch size. Prices vary depending on the fitting. — S.G.



■ The Cable Connection, 800/851-2961, thecableconnection.com.

For more information about this product, go to <http://exteriorproducts.hotims.com>.

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Deck Membrane

60-mil vinyl made to handle foot traffic

Duradek's vinyl roof membrane doubles as a walking surface and a water barrier to protect rooftop decks from water infiltration.

The company's Ultra PVC Membrane comes in more than two dozen colors and patterns — including surfaces made to mimic cork, granite chip, sandstone, and leather — in rolls that are 72 inches or 54 inches wide. The lighter the color, the cooler the deck, the company says. Darker colors tend to fade faster than light ones.

The company recommends that the membrane be installed over 1/2-inch or 5/8-inch plywood or 5/16-inch cement board sloped at 2 percent to prevent pooling. It also can be bonded to concrete. Installation — by authorized Duradek contractors — includes heat-welded seams and edge-detailing to keep water out of living spaces below. (If you're interested



in learning about becoming an authorized dealer and applicator, give the company a call.)

Warranty periods range from five to 10 years, depending on the product. The company declined to provide pricing. — S.G.

■ **Duradek**, 800/338-3568, duradek.com. ❖

For more information about this product, go to <http://exteriorproducts.hotims.com>.

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