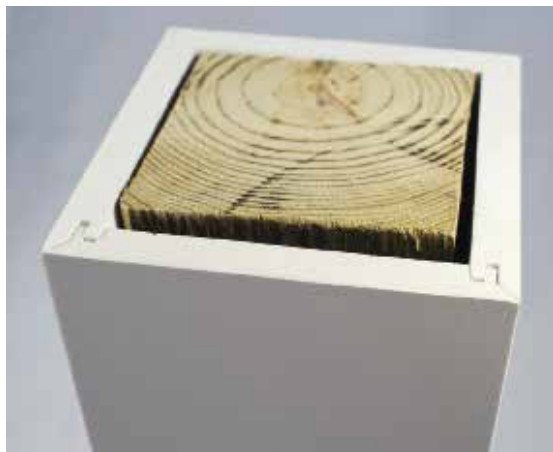


PRODUCTS

by Scott Gibson

Column Wraps

Paintable white PVC



Azek's cellular PVC column wraps have interlocking joints that press together — with no need for hammers or other tools. Three of the panels are connected with taped seams and fold around a structural support, while the fourth panel locks into place.

The company says to prevent corner seams from separating, they should be glued with Azek Adhesive or some other brand of quick-setting adhesive, such as Extreme Adhesives Fast Cure, Devcon Trim Bonder, or OSI TeQBond. Once the adhesive has cured, the tape connecting the panels can be removed.

Azek also recommends fastening the wrap to the structural post at the very top or bottom, where fastener heads will be concealed by trim.

Column wraps are sized to fit around structural 4x4, 6x6, and 8x8 posts and are available in 10-foot lengths, which can be trimmed to fit shorter posts. They come in one finish — white — and don't need to be painted, although if another color is preferred, the cellular PVC has excellent paint adhesion, the company says.

Wraps have a 25-year limited warranty. Prices range from about \$90 for a 4x4 wrap to \$180 for one that fits an 8x8 post.

■ **Azek Building Products**, 877/275-2935, azek.com.

ChoiceDek Composite Rail

Updated version of a simple classic



A wood-plastic-composite deck railing with simple balusters, 2x4 rails, and square posts is the newest addition to the ChoiceDek Foundations product line.

The composite is made from 95 percent recycled material — 37% post-consumer waste and 58% pre-consumer — according to the company. Sources include polyethylene plastics from recycled food-packing films, grocery bags, and milk jugs.

Components are sold in kits, each of which includes three 6-foot rails, 14 balusters, two post sleeves, post caps, and post collars — enough for a 6-foot section of deck railing. Post sleeves are 48 inches long and balusters are 31 inches long.

To attach the rails, the installer screws a baluster to a post with trim-head screws, then screws the rails to the baluster. Railing connector brackets also can be used.

The company says its Foundation products can be installed in the ground — or even under water — without voiding the warranty.

All components are available in gray, brown, or redwood, with an embossed wood-grain texture that does not need painting or staining. The total cost for each 6-foot section of railing, sold only at Lowe's stores, is about \$115.

■ **Advanced Environmental Recycling Technologies**, 800/951-5117, choicedek.com.

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PRODUCTS

Under-Deck Drainage

Ceiling panels can be taken down for cleaning



Having drainage and a ceiling underneath an elevated deck can make the space below far more useful and attractive. One option is to install the Zip-Up UnderDeck system of PVC components.

Rails that are set every 4 feet pitch 1-foot-wide PVC ceiling panels away from the house at $\frac{1}{8}$ inch per foot, while main rails run the length of the deck and support the panels. Water that falls through the decking is picked up by the panels and diverted to a gutter.

Installation requires a few basic tools but no specialized tools or equipment, and can be done on new or existing decks.

The ceiling panels, which snap into the main rails during assembly, can easily be unzipped and taken down for cleaning or to provide access to utilities in the ceiling, the company says.

Components come in white or beige, in two finishes. Main rails and ceiling panels come in lengths of 8 feet, 12 feet, and 16 feet. Wall trim and pitching rail comes in 8-foot and 12-foot lengths.

The manufacturer guarantees the system for 25 years. A video describing how components are installed is available at the company's website, as is a dealer locator.

Contractors pay around \$6 per square foot for materials. The company says installed pricing averages about \$11.50 per square foot.

■ **Zip-Up UnderDeck**, 888/449-4787,
www.quietwalk.com/zipup-ceiling-and-decking.

PRODUCTS

Paver-Edging Spikes

Angled tip for good grip

Frustration with patio edges that collapsed over time led landscape contractor Jeff Goodman to develop a spike that he says holds edging in place more effectively than common spikes.

The defining feature of the 10-inch Edgetite spike is a curved tip designed to deflect away from the pavers as the spike is hammered in. The spike ends up in an angled position with the head pushed up against the edging, which helps the edging and pavers resist movement due to freeze-thaw cycles.

Videos showing the spikes being installed are posted on the company's website.

A box of 160 spikes costs about \$60. You can buy them through one of the retailers listed on the company's website; Edgetite does not sell directly to installers.

■ **Edgetite**, 630/514-0052, edgetite.com. ♦

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



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