

READERS' TIPS

Best techniques from the field

Winter Work Gloves

by Robert Shaw

If you're like me, you build decks right on through the winter. Keeping my hands warm is a challenge, and when my hands get cold, the rest of my body quickly follows suit. I have winter gloves, but they're too thick for me to work efficiently with them—I spend half my time taking them off to do tasks that require precision, and the other half trying to warm my fingers up after I've put the gloves back on.

Thinking that there had to be a better way, I slipped on a pair of medical-type latex gloves underneath my work gloves a couple of winters back. Usually my hands sweat when wearing latex gloves, so I figured they would do a good job of retaining heat as well. It worked like a charm, allowing me to wear thinner top gloves that I rarely had to take off. Of course, latex gloves aren't very sturdy, and I ripped quite a few of them before switching to a heavier-duty nitrile glove (dynarex.com). Nitrile gloves cost about 10 cents each (a box of 100 costs less than \$10 at Amazon.com) and hold up a lot better than single-use latex gloves.

Over the nitrile gloves, I wear Firm Grip latex-coated cotton work gloves, which I get at Home Depot (homedepot.com). They fit tightly and offer plenty of dexterity so that I don't have to take them off very often. They're also surprisingly durable, considering they cost less than \$5 per pair. I've comfortably used the nitrile-cotton glove combo in temperatures down to 5°F. In even colder temperatures, I layer the nitrile gloves with Atlas Therma-Fit work gloves (atlasfitgloves.com), which are warmer (although slightly thicker and a little more expensive—about \$7 a pair online).

Robert Shaw owns Colorado Deck and Framing (mysteeldeck.com) in Colorado Springs.

This reader's tip wins a DeWalt 20-volt cordless oscillating multi-tool kit. ❖

Send Us Your 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 prodeck@hanleywood.com.

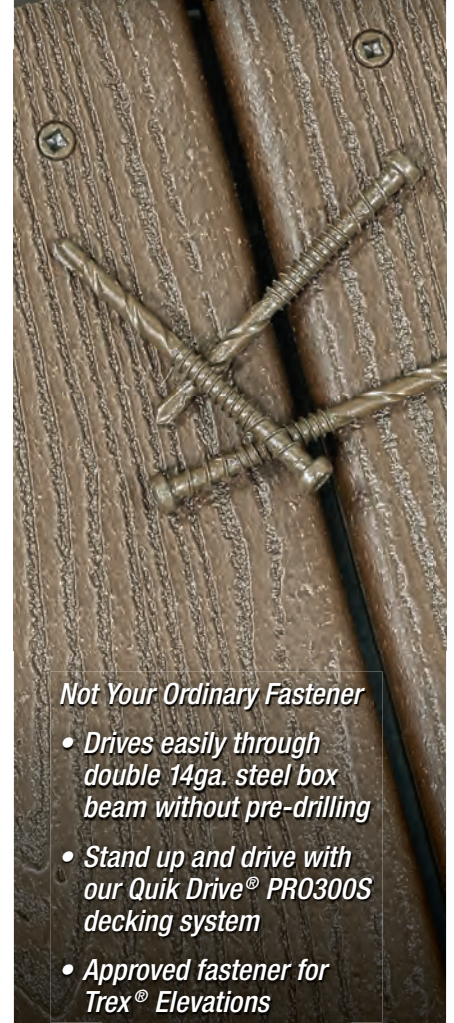
The prize for the March 2014 issue is a 20-volt cordless oscillating multi-tool kit. So, write up those tips. Don't sweat the grammar or the spelling—that's what editors get paid for. Take a photo (your camera's best setting, please), or send a sketch on the back of a napkin.



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