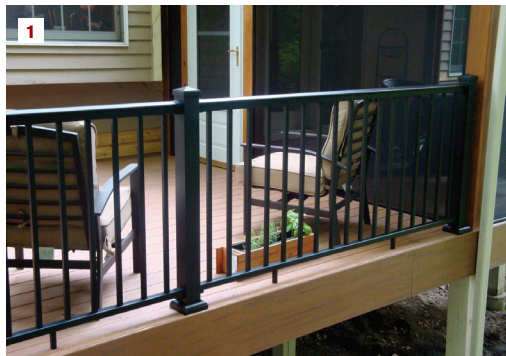


PRODUCTS

by Scott Gibson



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1. Railing and More

MoistureShield has rolled out three new deck-accessory products: hidden fasteners, aluminum railing, and lighting. The company says the hidden fasteners can be installed with screws or pneumatic fasteners, and that they keep deck boards slightly above the joists to permit air circulation. The Pro Aluminum Railing is manufactured from an aluminum alloy with a powder-coat finish (initially in textured black) and comes in kits for 8-foot sections. Deck lighting will include recessed lights, post lights, under-rail lights, stair lights, and post-cap lights. The company didn't announce pricing. MoistureShield, 866.729.2378, moistureshield.com

2. Tough Phone

Most cellphones aren't designed for rugged work environments. But, according to Kyocera, its DuraXV is built to resist dust, shock, vibration, temperature extremes, blowing rain, salt fog, and humidity. It's certified to military specs that allow submersion in water 6 feet deep for up to 30 minutes and has a full suite of smartphone features, including a 5-megapixel camera, video camcorder, and GPS navigator. It also can be ordered without the camera (for working where cameras are prohibited). The company says the large buttons on the keypad can be used with gloved fingers and "hearty hands." Price: \$200 (\$100 with a two-year Verizon contract). Kyocera Communications, 800.349.4478, kyoceramobile.com

3. Paver Patterns

Pavestone has expanded its line of concrete pavers with the Panorama Combo Series, a five-piece system that can be used to create different patterns for sidewalks, pool decks, garden paths, and patios. The company says the pavers, made from a no-slump concrete mix with an average compressive strength of 8,000 psi, are available in three DemiCombo sizes and three SupraCombo sizes. Pavers range from 4 inches by 8 inches to 16 inches by 24 inches and are 2 3/8 inches thick. Pavestone didn't announce pricing. Regional manufacturers are listed at the website. Pavestone, pavestone.com

4. Hot Tubs

A new line of aboveground hot tubs from Jacuzzi features a curved, woven exterior with integrated lighting, a touchscreen panel, and a smartphone app. There are two models of the jetted tub: the J-575 for up to six adults, and the larger J-585, which can accommodate up to seven adults. The woven skirt is available in two colors (gray and brown). Other features include fiber-optic LED lighting, dual waterfalls, and a glass control panel. The smartphone app allows remote operating and monitoring. Prices range from \$20,000 to \$22,000, depending on whether the tub is equipped with stereo. Jacuzzi, 866.234.7727, jacuzzi.com

PRODUCTS

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5. Aerosol Stain

Thompson's has introduced waterproofing stain in an aerosol dispenser. The 11.75-ounce WaterSeal aerosol combines exterior wood stain with sealer and offers UV protection and mildew resistance, according to the company. The five available colors—including shades of brown, gold, and red—match the full-size WaterSeal line. The small package is designed for matching deck-stain colors on railings, lattice, plant boxes, and wooden furniture. It's quick, the company says, and there's no cleanup involved. The aerosols will retail for between \$9 and \$10. Thompson's WaterSeal, 800.367.6297, thompsonswaterseal.com

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6. Fast-Setting Concrete

Need a concrete landing for a set of stairs in a hurry? Quikrete says its Q-Max Pro is the only concrete mix with one-hour working time, three-hour walk-on time, and an eventual compressive strength of 6,500 pounds per square inch. The concrete contains alkaline-resistant fiberglass fibers for crack resistance and an air-entraining admixture to improve workability and provide resistance to freeze-thaw damage. When applied in a minimum thickness of 2 inches, Q-Max reaches 1,000 psi in three hours, 3,000 psi in 24 hours, and 6,500 psi in 28 days. It's sold in 80-pound bags for about \$10. Q-Max was introduced at the World of Concrete show in Las Vegas in February. Quikrete, 800.282.5828, quikrete.com

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7. Cable-Ready Posts

A Maryland company has devised a prethreaded metal post for use with cable railings that allows the installer to skip the tedious step of drilling posts for the cables. In place of a wood 4x4, the Vertebrace can be bolted or lagged to deck framing or core-drilled into concrete, and capped with a PVC or composite post sleeve that's been predrilled for cable connections. The posts are available in aluminum or stainless steel for 36- and 42-inch-tall railings. A professional engineer has certified it for use in a number of states, including Massachusetts, New York, Ohio, Maryland, Virginia, and North Carolina. Pricing wasn't announced. East Coast Cable Solutions, 240.288.8050, eastcoastcablesolutions.com

8. Local Color

Breaking away from conventional color schemes, Feeney is offering DesignRail aluminum railing with yellow, orange, red, blue, and green components. Customers can add optional LED lighting and chose from a number of mounting, top-rail, and infill options, including pickets, glass, and stainless steel cable. All the railings in the "Express Yourself by Feeney" line feature a powder-coat finish for color retention and weather protection, Feeney says. The railing costs between \$80 and \$115 per linear foot, depending on the type of infill. Feeney, 800.888.2418, feeneyinc.com