

PRODUCTS

by Scott Gibson

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1. Heat Relief

For keeping pergolas, patios, and other outdoor structures cool on sweltering summer days, Arctic Cove offers a variety of misting kits, such as the Cool Cave, a cordless device that runs on an 18-volt lithium-ion battery and draws water from a 5-gallon pail or a garden hose. Of more interest to the folks building the patios and decks are the Drink N Mist (\$10)—a 22-ounce water bottle that also dispenses mist—and the Super Cooling Towel (\$15), made from a mesh material that when soaked in water, Arctic Cove says, cools surface temperatures by 30°F. Both are available at The Home Depot. Arctic Cove, 877.297.8911, arcticcove.com

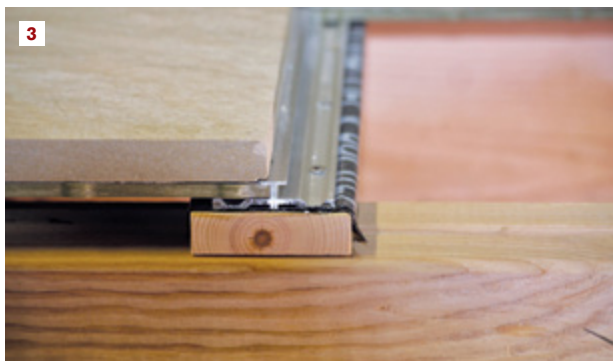
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2. Klein Tools

Klein has teamed up with Google AdSense for Shopping to make it easier for shoppers to compare prices and buy its products from competing vendors. Using the “Buy Now” service, a customer can browse the company’s website for products, click the “Buy Now” icon, and get the product directly from a distributor’s website. The expanded program now gives customers a choice of 30 vendors, Klein said. The company said it was the first in the tool industry to partner with Google in the program, and that it would make tool buying more straightforward. Klein Tools, 800.553.4876, kleintools.com

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3. Tile Decks

Mbrico Tile Decks consist of porcelain stoneware tiles installed without grout over aluminum tracks mounted over standard deck framing. Grooved tile edges slide onto the track, and milled “bumpers” maintain uniform spacing between tiles. The frost-resistant and color-fast tiles come in two sizes—12 inches by 24 inches and 24 inches square—and 30 colors, and do not need a sealant. Each tile can support 2,200 pounds, according to the maker. Tiles and track are delivered as a complete kit, including butyl flashing tape and stainless steel screws, for about \$23 a square foot. Mbrico Tile Decks, 844.449.9214, mbricotiledecks.com

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4. Pickup Organizer

Highway Products has a new Pickup Pack, a work-truck bed organizer designed to keep your stuff straight, and under lock and key if you choose. There are two models, and options including full-length, lockable boxes, a flat or domed center hatch, a removable ladder rack, gull-wing tool boxes right behind the cab, and a 4,000-pound-capacity roll-out cargo tray. The Packs are fabricated with marine-grade aluminum in the U.S. and come with a lifetime warranty. You provide the make, model, and year of your truck, and the company builds a Pack to fit it. Prices start at \$4,000. Highway Products, 800.866.5269, highwayproducts.com



5. Railing Kits

Ply Gem is offering Express Boxed PVC Railing, a kit that contains all the components needed to build a railing. Boxed kits are available in two styles—T-Rail and Standard Railing—in colors including khaki, white, black, and brown. Standard Railing, which the company describes as a contemporary design, comes in both 36- and 42-inch heights and in widths of 6, 8, and 10 feet. Pickets come in a variety of sizes. T-Rail, a “classic” design, also is available in both 36- and 42-inch heights and in a width of 8 feet. Like the Standard Railing, it incorporates a 4x4 post. Ply Gem didn’t announce pricing. Ply Gem, 888.975.9436, outdoor.plygem.com

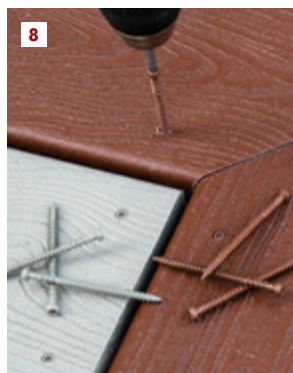
6. Outdoor Lighting

Progress Lighting has introduced nine new outdoor lighting collections, with more energy-efficient products and designs for a variety of architectural styles. There are several new styles of LEDs, including “Arrive,” which features die-cast frames and heavily textured glass; the vintage “Brookside” (shown), with a train-station motif; and the Arts-and-Crafts-styled “Derby.” The LED lamps have a color temperature of 3,000 degrees Kelvin and a color rendering index of greater than 90. They’re also compliant with California Title 24. Progress Lighting, 864.678.1000, progresslighting.com



7. Deck Preservative

EPA-registered Outlast Q8 Log Oil and End Cut Solution is designed to control mold and insect damage in decking, log homes, and siding, and slow the graying of wood due to UV exposure. Applied with a sprayer, roller, or brush in a single coat, the non-film-forming preservative comes in six colors as well as clear. It’s approved by the American Wood Protection Association for treating end cuts on pressure-treated lumber, according to the maker, and is non-evaporative and VOC compliant in all 50 states. Quarts are \$18.25; gallons, \$69; and 5-gallon pails, \$285. CTA Products Group, 877.536.1446, chemtch.com



8. Composite Screw

Simpson Strong-Tie says its Deck-Drive DCU Composite screw works in all kinds of composite decking including encapsulated boards. The head has inverted upper threads that seat the screw consistently and correctly; a “Quik Guard” coating allows the screw to be used with many types of treated wood framing; and the cap head is designed to prevent mushrooming. The screw is available in colors matched to most major composite decking brands and is an approved Trex fastener. It’s available in bulk and in a collated version for use with Quik Drive auto-feed driving systems. Simpson Strong-Tie, 800.999.5099, strongtie.com ❖