

PRODUCTS

by Scott Gibson



1. Vinyl Decking

CertainTeed's EverNew vinyl decking features a hollow-core profile with a nonporous surface that the manufacturer says won't stain, scratch, or fade. It's available in three UV-protected colors—almond, white, and gray—and in lengths of 12 feet, 16 feet, and 20 feet. CertainTeed recommends 16-inch on-center framing; once the planks have been screwed to the framing, fill pieces are installed into channels in the plank surface to hide the fasteners. Planks have a non-slip raised-ridge tread. The decking comes with a limited lifetime warranty. CertainTeed, certainteed.com



2. Outdoor Rope Lights

Suitable for outdoor locations, Outwater Plastics LED Brite Lite Flex Lighting strips run on 120-volt current, and don't require electrical transformers or amplifiers. The low-profile ribbons can be installed in continuous lengths up to 165 feet and powered with a single power cord. LEDs come in cool and warm white, red, green, and blue, as well as in a color-changing RGB option. Flex Lighting can be cut in the field. Some models are available with LEDs in either single or double rows, and some are dimmable. Lights can be used with Outwater's mounting channels. Outwater Plastics, outwatercatalogs.com



3. Color-Coded Nails

MiTek's Teco collated nails are coded by color and by a number stamped into the head, allowing the installer or building inspector to confirm at a glance the right nail has been used. Bright nails come in two lengths—1 1/2 inches (with a purple head) and 2 1/2 inches (with a blue head)—and one of three diameters (0.131, 0.148, and 0.168 inch), indicated on the nail head. Fasteners also are available in stainless steel and with a hot-dip galvanized coating. Nails can be installed with a majority of popular 33-degree (plus or minus 2 degrees), paper-tape pneumatic nail guns, according to MiTek. MiTek USA, mitek-us.com



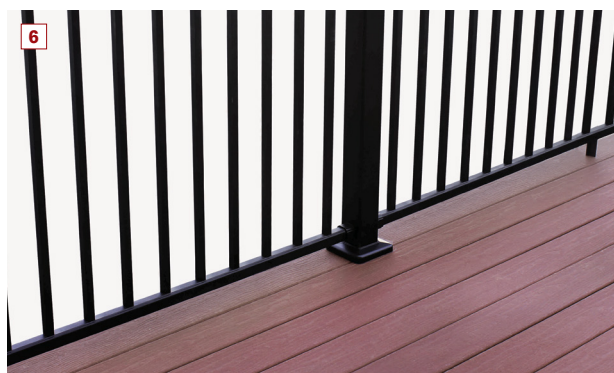
4. Trim Screws

Starborn Industries now has a 2-inch fastener for its Pro Plug System for PVC trim. The fastener is specifically designed for plug-fastening trim boards 5/8 inch to 1 1/4 inches thick. The Pro Plug System includes star-drive fasteners in two grades of stainless steel plus epoxy-coated steel in a variety of lengths. Plugs are made from PVC trim material from a number of different manufacturers—including Azek, Royal, Tufboard, Trex, and others—for an precise color match. Plugs for various brands of decking also are available. Starborn Industries, starbornindustries.com



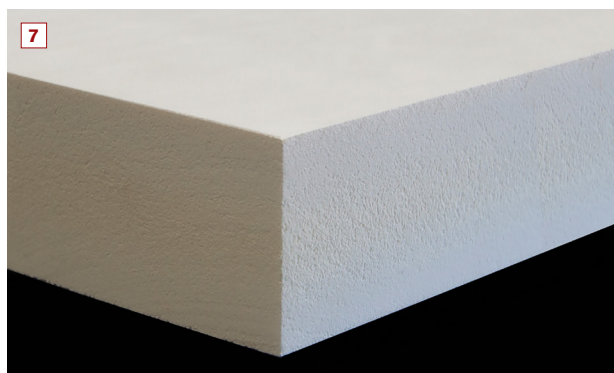
5. Engineered Wood Posts and Rails

Stainless Cable & Railing says its 4x4 engineered Batu posts are manufactured using a process that makes the naturally strong wood nearly impervious to checking, splitting, and warping. An undrilled Batu post lists for about \$53; matching rails in 2x4, 5/4x4, and 5/4x6 sizes are also available. The company also offers Quattro western red cedar posts, which are laminated and have a hollow core. Designed for cable railing, they're available in 4x4 and 6x6 sizes. An undrilled 4x4 Quattro post costs about \$48. Matching 2x4 and 2x6 clear red cedar rails are also available from the company's website. Stainless Cable & Railing, stainlesscablerailing.com



6. Aluminum Railing

Slimline aluminum railing kits from Fairway Building Products come in 6- and 8-foot lengths, in two heights—36 inches for residential projects and 42 inches for commercial ones—and in two finishes, textured bronze and textured black (white is planned for later this year). Eight-foot kits are available for stairs. Top and bottom rails are cut to length on site; once balusters are inserted, the assembly is attached to surface-mounted posts with brackets. Screw heads are hidden by aluminum caps. A 6-foot-long, 36-inch-tall railing section is \$177; an 8-foot section, \$236. Hardware and posts are extra. Fairway Building Products, fairwaybp.com



7. PVC Trim

Kleer's 2x PVC trimboard and sheets are 1 1/2 inches thick to match traditional lumber dimensions, so they don't need to be laminated into thicker profiles. Kleer says it introduced 2x in response to demand from builders, particularly in wet, coastal regions. The material doesn't absorb water, so it can be used at or below grade, and it won't splinter, swell, or rot, according to the manufacturer. Standard 18-foot lengths are available in 2x4, 2x6, 2x8, 2x10, and 2x12 nominal sizes. Sheets come in 48-inch widths and in lengths of 8, 12, 16, and 18 feet. Custom lengths also are available. There's one finish—smooth. The Tapco Group, kleerlumber.com



8. Cable Fittings

Feeney's Quick-Connect Lag and Pivot cable-rail fittings are designed for use with wood posts. Fittings screw into a post or wall and, according to Feeney, once a cable is inserted into a Quick-Connect Lag fitting, jaws grab the cable and lock it in—with no need for crimping or compression tools. The Pivot fitting swings up to 180 degrees for use in stairways and other angled installations. Both fittings come in two versions—a fixed end that can't be tensioned, and an adjustable turnbuckle end that lets cables be tensioned. A pair of Quick-Connect Lag and Swivel Turnbuckles is about \$55; a pair of Pivot fittings lists for \$65. Feeney, feeneyinc.com ♦