

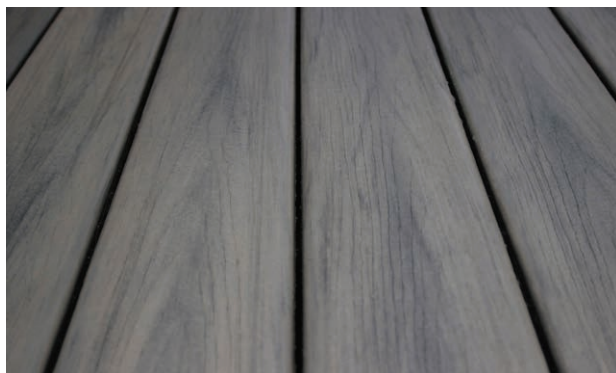
PRODUCTS

by Scott Gibson and Charles Wardell



Water-Based Fence Stain

Eco Chemical has introduced a stain for fences that includes nonvolatile plant-based oils in a waterborne formula that's low in volatile organic compounds and cleans up easily with water. Eco's Fence Stain is available in a number of colors and is guaranteed for four years. Fence Stain was developed specifically for manufacturers that make pre-stained fencing, and the company makes stain and board samples available on request. Eco Chemical says the stain can be used in flow-coating machines for high-speed production, in direct spraying, and in dip tanks. Eco Chemical, ecochemical.com



Capped and Cool Decking

MoistureShield has added two new decking lines, one with an integrated cap and the other designed to stay cooler than conventional composites. Refine decking is made with a cap featuring high-definition wood-grain detail that provides fade, stain, and scratch resistance, according to the manufacturer. The Infuse line of decking absorbs as much as 35% less heat than conventional composites in similar colors, the manufacturer says. The decking is rated for ground contact and may be used underwater without affecting its lifetime residential warranty. Advanced Environmental Recycling Technologies, aert.com



Modular Fencing

BW Creative Railing Systems' new Cedar Privacy Fence Kit is an easy way to give clients a private outdoor area. For a cost of \$350 to \$400, you get a pair of powder-coated aluminum posts, the top and bottom rails, and a box of 4-inch-wide western red cedar slats. Each kit makes a 5 $\frac{1}{5}$ -foot-high, 4-foot-long fence. Posts can be surface-mounted or embedded in concrete. Note that the fence is not rated as a guardrail; it's meant for use around patios or on decks that aren't high enough above grade to need a guardrail. BW Creative Railing Systems, bwcreativerailings.com



Column Wraps

Versatex Building Products has added two new column wraps to its product line: a raised-panel look-alike and a tapered profile. Both are made from PVC and have full-length closures at the corners that snap together quickly. The raised-panel wrap comes in two sizes, 6 inches and 8 inches square, and in lengths of 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ feet and 10 feet. The tapered wraps (shown) also come in two sizes: one that's 16 inches at the base and 12 inches square at the top, and a second that's 12 inches at the base tapering to 8 inches at the top. Prices for the tapered wraps range from \$248 to \$374, depending on size and height. Prices for the raised-panel wraps range from \$240 to \$383. Versatex Building Products, versatex.com

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Diamond Blade

Although diamond blades are more expensive than abrasive wheels, Ox Tools says its PU10 blades will last up to 50 times longer. The manufacturer says the blades cut quickly and smoothly, thanks to a serrated edge, and their reinforced center plate makes them safer to use while dampening vibrations. The Chinese-made blades are available in diameters from 4 inches to 14 inches. Online prices range from \$30 to \$175, depending on the diameter. Ox Tools, us.oxtools.com



New Knives

Need a pocket or utility knife? Klein has plenty of new ones to choose from. Pocket knives all have blades made from 440A stainless steel, dual thumb studs to make one-handed opening easy, and a pocket clip. Models include the Assisted Open Camo Knife, with a serrated edge for cutting hard, fibrous material; the Electrician's Pocket Knife, with wire-stripping notches; and the Compact Pocket Knife, with a back lock to secure the blade in an open position. New utility knives include the Auto-Loading Folding Retractable, with internal blade storage for three blades; a spring-assisted camo folding utility knife; and the Self-Retracting Utility Knife, with a blade that retracts completely into the housing when the cut is complete, according to Klein. Prices range from about \$13 to \$35. Klein Tools, kleintools.com



Thermal Panels

Therma-Hexx markets its panels for a variety of uses, including heating sidewalks and driveways to clear surfaces of snow and ice, cooling the surface of patio pavers, and using solar energy to heat pool water. The polyethylene panels are roughly 2 feet square and 1.4 inches thick and are installed immediately below the paved surface. Flow rates of liquid through the panels can range from 0.25 to 1.25 gallons per minute, with a heat exchange rate of up to 500 Btu per hour. The company typically sells the panels as an engineered system, not individually, and says pricing depends on the job. Therma-Hexx, therma-hexx.com



Stronger Deck Frames

An Atlanta engineer has developed a line of heavy steel brackets to reinforce a wood deck frame and secure it to a house. The Steel Structural Deck Support System includes 12-gauge post and corner brackets, as well as ledger brackets that support more than 1,500 pounds with a 4- or 5-inch standoff—perfect for brick veneer siding. Brackets cost \$50 and \$75 apiece in galvanized, but can be ordered in stainless steel for an extra charge. The current line uses bolts, but the company will soon have a version for use with LedgerLoks. Testing is underway for a code report. Higginbotham Steel, higginbothamsteel.com ❖