

BY VINCENT SALANDRO



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1. Low-Maintenance Composite Cladding

Aside says the Ascend Composite Cladding system is designed to deliver a simpler installation process and lower cost to professionals. According to the manufacturer, the product comes in 20 fade-resistant colors and joins with a self-aligning stack lock that requires no specialized tools to install. The cladding is made with a glass-reinforced polymer and graphite-infused polystyrene, which provides a Class A Fire Rating. Ascend is reportedly priced to provide a lower total installed cost than competitive products. ascendcompositecladding.com



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2. Acrylic Urethane Paint Sealant

Dap's Power Point 300 line of acrylic urethane elastomeric sealants reportedly offers strong multi-surface adhesion and stretches up to 600%, allowing it to seal gaps up to 3 inches wide. Power Point 300 has a two-hour paint ready time, and it reportedly won't shine through, dull, or discolor paint. It's available in 14 colors. Pricing ranges from \$4.50 to \$5. dap.com



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3. Smooth Finish Trim

LP SmartSide Trim is an engineered-wood material that is available in widths from 1.5 to 11.2 inches and in lengths up to 16 feet. It's backed by an industry-leading 5/50-year limited warranty that LP says covers replacement cost of labor and materials for first five years, and cost of materials thereafter. Like the siding, the trim is reportedly protected against weather impacts, freeze/thaw cycles, high humidity, and fungal decay by LP's SmartGuard manufacturing process. Pricing varies by region. lpcorp.com

4. Flexible Deck Board

The Kebony Deck Board accommodates four varieties of fasteners to provide easy and quick installation, according to Kebony. Deck boards come with a 30-year warranty against rot with no maintenance and a 50- to 75-year expected lifespan. When left unfinished, the decking evenly fades to a silver-gray patina. The re-engineered profile is compatible with the Step-Clip for Kebony, hidden fastener clips, the Pro Plug System with Kebony wood plugs, and stainless steel screws. Pricing starts at \$11.50 per square foot. us.kebony.com

Products

5. LED Deck Underlighting

Trex Co.'s Trex RainEscape Soffit Light is a directional LED downlight that installs into the ceiling below a deck drainage system on an elevated deck. The fixtures feature CREE long-life LEDs that use 75% less energy than standard can lights, according to Trex. Made for outdoor use, the components are reportedly durable and designed to stand up to years of exposure to extreme elements. Each soffit light comes with two steel spring tension clips that reportedly hold the fixture securely on any type of soffit material. Optional timer and remote-control dimmer are sold separately. Pricing starts at about \$80 per fixture. trex.com

6. Novel Steel Railing System

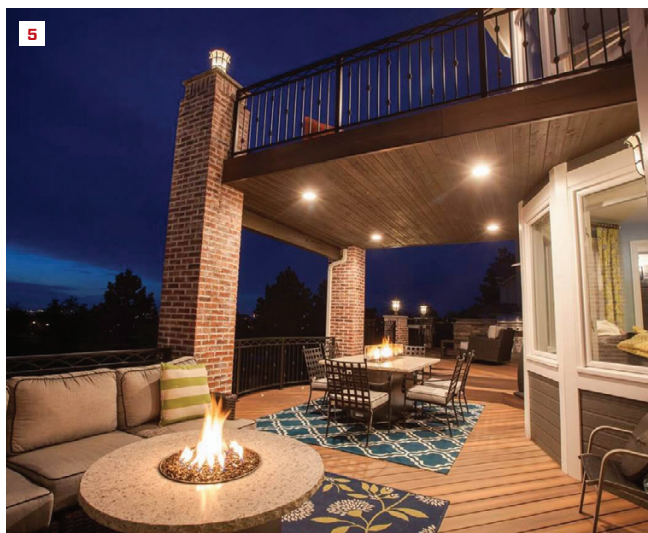
DuraLife Concord Steel Railing includes prewelded, fully assembled panels and posts with pre-attached brackets and comes in 6-, 8-, and 10-foot level rail kit lengths and 6- and 8-foot stair rail kit lengths. The railing is available in matte black and hammered bronze finishes and a variety of configurations, and the system can be enhanced with a complete line of steel accessories. Pricing varies by location. duralifedecking.com

7. Advanced Polymer Adhesive and Sealant

Titebond's Ultimate PVC Trim Adhesive and Sealant is an advanced polymer formulation that can reportedly bond to most building materials, including wood, masonry, aluminum, and vinyl. Titebond says the sealant's increased flexibility enables the product to function with 50% joint movement capability. The sealant can be installed in weather conditions as low as 0°F to provide a durable bond and weathertight seal, according to Titebond, and it gives contractors 10 to 20 minutes to adhere the PVC components. VOC content is 9g/L. It's available in 10.1-ounce cartridges; pricing starts at \$5.50 per cartridge. titebond.com

8. Double-Course Panel Siding

CertainTeed's Double 7-inch 3G Straight Edge Perfection Shingles are composite wood and feature slanted, tapered gaps, a high-definition texture, and an offset corner to replicate a woven appearance. CertainTeed claims the double-course panel provides increased coverage and requires fewer fasteners than single-course siding. The shingles include hidden drainage holes, friction dots, reverse texture backing, and a built-in spacing indicator. Pricing starts at \$450 per square. certainteed.com





9. Reciprocating Saw Blades

L.S. Starrett's 3X Power series of Bi-Metal Reciprocating Saw Blades are reportedly highly resistant to breakage, have a reinforced shank, and are engineered for use on corded and cordless saws. The series includes blades for cutting wood, metal, multiple materials, and heavy-duty materials. The manufacturer claims these blades can make more cuts than competitive blades. The line's King Cut 3X Heavy-Duty blades feature heat-treated teeth with a pitch set designed to slice through any material, according to Starrett. starrett.com



10. Preassembled Aluminum Railing System

Deckorators ALX Contemporary preassembled heavy-gauge aluminum railing panels are welded to maximize rigidity and strength, according to the manufacturer. The system comes in 36- and 42-inch heights and 6- and 8-foot on-center lengths when installed between 2 1/2-inch posts. The 2 1/2-inch post kits include one-piece post trim and a leveling plate. Available in four powder-coated colors, the railing has a rectangular top rail profile and square balusters. Price for Deckorators ALX Contemporary preassembled railing averages \$50 to \$55 per linear foot. deckorators.com



11. Single-Hand Skimming Blade

Advance Equipment's Radius Skimming Blade drywall tool can reportedly be used with a single hand for a natural drywall finishing feel. The blade is shaped to hold mud, making it ideal for skimming patchwork or achieving a Level-5 drywall finish, according to the manufacturer. Advance Equipment says that with its offset blade and radius corners, the thin and flexible skimming blade is ideal for smoothing and for using behind finishing boxes for less sanding. The stainless steel Radius Skimming Blade is 3 1/2 inches in depth and is available in 10-, 12-, 14-, and 16-inch lengths. advance-equipment.com



12. Low-Profile LED Luminaires

The NULS LED Linear low-profile 120V luminaires from Nora Lighting feature a frosted lens that makes them ideal for task lighting. The luminaires are 1 3/8 inches deep and are offered in four lengths and three color temperatures, from 2700K to 4000K, with a color rating index above 80. According to Nora Lighting, the fixtures can be linked together seamlessly and can be hardwired into a junction box (sold separately). Contact a local distributor for pricing. noralighting.com