

BY VINCENT SALANDRO



1. Wood-Grain Composite Decking

Sporting a wood-grain finish and reduced pattern repetition for a more natural look, MoistureShield Meridian capped decking also offers the scratch resistance and low maintenance of a wood-plastic composite. The 1x6 deck boards come in three colors, in square-edge and grooved versions, and in 12-, 16-, and 20-foot lengths. Meridian is currently available in the Northeast and will roll out to additional regions later in 2021. Pricing varies. moistureshield.com



2. DensDeck Gypsum Roof Coverboard

Georgia-Pacific's DensDeck StormX Prime Roof Board, a water-resistant gypsum roof coverboard, is designed to help prepare commercial rooftops to resist impact and punctures caused by wind-borne debris as well as severe hail (defined as hail more than 1⁵/₈ inches in diameter). StormX is classified for use in approved assemblies meeting FM Global's Very Severe Hail (diameter greater than 2 inches) Standard set in 2019. Contact distributors for pricing. buildgp.com



3. Smart Air Control System

When Fantech's new Eco-Touch Auto IAQ controller recognizes elevated VOCs in the home, it ramps up ventilation from Fantech Fresh Air appliances to bring in more fresh air while removing stale air to the outdoors. The controller also monitors relative humidity and adjusts air intake accordingly. Homeowners use a touchscreen control panel to set automatic night and day preferences or to operate the controller manually. The system retails for \$165. fantech.net



4. Composite-Fiber Siding

Rise Siding is composed of 94% recycled carpet fiber, but its vertical wood-grain texture mimics the look of real wood. Notably, the siding comes in 20-foot lengths, which will help installers minimize seams and reduce jobsite waste. Available in two widths, the siding is prefinished in a choice of white or one of seven colors. According to the manufacturer, the siding resists decay, rot, and freeze-thaw damage; features two-sided water protection; and has minimal expansion and contraction rates. Priced competitively with composite and fiber-cement siding, Rise Siding is available nationwide. risebuildingproducts.com

Products

5. Horizontal Steel Rod Railing

A new style in RDI's Metalworks Excalibur line, Latitudes Horizontal Rod Rail preassembled panel features horizontal 1/2-inch-diameter round steel rods and a matte black finish, in both 36- and 42-inch finished rail heights. The rail panels are available in 6- and 8-foot lengths for level sections and in 6-foot lengths for stairs; uprights can be removed so panels can be cut to size. According to RDI, welded center supports and bushings in the uprights increase strength, and the bracketed posts make level installation simple while providing code-compliant bottom spacing. rdirail.com



6. Expanded Ridge Premium Collection

Envision Building Products added 20-foot-long square-edge boards and 16- and 20-foot grooved-edge boards (to meet demand from deck builders who prefer to use hidden fasteners) to its Ridge Premium collection. The boards feature a high-density cap, which the manufacturer says is bonded to the core with heat and pressure to squeeze out air pockets and create a deeply grained surface. The boards are available in black walnut, gunstock, and vintage oak colors, with companion skirting available in all three colors as well. envisiondecking.com



7. Residential Aluminum Railing

Designed for easy installation, Fortress Building Products' Al¹³ Home railing consists of powder-coated aluminum panels with preattached brackets. The railing system comes in 2- and 3-inch over-the-post or proud-post options, and in a black-sand or white-matte finish. Customers can customize the panels with vertical cable or Pure View Glass infill. fortressbp.com



8. Optimized Spray Foam Insulation Kits

Dap optimized its one- and two-component Touch 'n Foam Professional and Touch 'n Seal spray foam products to provide better insulating properties and lower their Global Warming Potential (GWP) for a reduced impact on the environment. The kits were developed to meet changing hydrofluorocarbon regulatory requirements for low-pressure polyurethane spray foams. The one- and two-component closed cell-foam kits feature an improved R-value of 6.6, are ICC and CCMC Listed, and consist of a fast-drying formula that is Class A fire rated. Pricing varies based on the size and components featured in the kits. dap.com





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9. Glass and Tile Drill Bits

Milwaukee Tool says its Glass and Tile Bits are engineered with sharpened carbide to drill faster than the standard alternative. The carbide head provides increased durability when drilling at high speed into tile and glass. The bits are designed for use with drill drivers only (not impact drivers) and are not recommended for use on porcelain tile. Available in four sizes, from 1/8 to 5/16 inch, the bits retail between \$7 and \$15. milwaukee tool.com

10. Premade Outside Corner Boards

LP Building Solutions recently added SmartSide Outside Corners to its line of engineered wood siding. This accessory promises to save time and, because the corner seam is prefixed, will reportedly reduce water intrusion. The Outside Corners are available in deep-grain cedar texture and come preprimed for better paint adhesion, according to the manufacturer. lpcorp.com

11. Charred-Wood Cape Cod Perfection Shake

Tando expanded its Cape Cod Perfection line with shakes in a “char” color, which gives them a charred wood appearance—a look rooted in a centuries-old Japanese wood-preserving process known as Shou Sugi Ban. The new shakes have a 5-inch exposure with crisp edges. Tando claims that Cape Cod Perfection shakes are impervious to moisture and are suitable for ground contact and roofline applications. The shake collection also has received a notice of approval from Miami-Dade County for high-wind and high-impact resistance, and reportedly meets all severe weather rigorous testing criteria. tandobp.com

12. ALX Aluminum Deck Post Extensions

Deckorators is now making post extensions for hanging string lights as part of its ALX aluminum deck railing series. The ALX post extensions, compatible with 2 1/2-inch-by-2 1/2-inch posts in both the ALX Classic and ALX Contemporary railing systems, allow users to install and hang outdoor lighting with ease, according to the manufacturer. The extensions are available in a textured black finish and measure 66 inches high, extending 39-inch railing posts to 105 inches or 44-inch posts to 110 inches. Each extension features a preinstalled insert for fastening to a post and a carabiner clip for attaching outdoor lighting. The average retail price is between \$60 and \$70. deckorators.com