

BY VINCENT SALANDRO



1. Sturdy Rafter Hangers

Simpson Strong-Tie's three new models of its LSSR rafter hanger come in 2-by lumber sizes and can be installed with both miter-cut and square-cut joists for plated trusses. Like other LSSR hangers, these have a ZMAX finish for corrosion protection, are field-adjustable for skews up to 45 degrees, and can be installed after all of the rafters have been tacked into place, boosting contractor productivity and efficiency, according to the manufacturer. All LSSR models are tested and code listed in IAPMO ER-280. Pricing starts around \$15. strongtie.com



2. Graspable Aluminum Handrails

Deckorators' ADA-compliant Aluminum Secondary Handrail, now available in a bronze finish, can be used to help comply with building codes for safety and livability. Compatible with 2 1/2-inch aluminum posts, the heavy-gauge-aluminum graspable handrail articulates with a variety of elbows and styles of returns to meet different installation situations, according to Deckorators. Contact the manufacturer for pricing information. deckorators.com



3. Smart Airflow Control

Panasonic's Intelli-Balance 200 Energy Recovery Ventilator (ERV) provides a stand-alone (doesn't require connection to central HVAC) balanced ventilation option with a standard MERV 13 filter. The unit, which can be floor, wall, or ceiling mounted, features a multi-speed selector that allows airflow adjustments from 60 to 200 cfm, as well as a boost function that allows occupants to increase ventilation on demand. This unit also features two electronically commutated brushless motors whose speed adjusts based on static pressure. panasonic.com



4. Tech-Savvy Plumbing Valves

Compatible with leading smart hubs, such as Amazon Alexa and Google Home, the connectivity of the app-driven Rusco Smart Ball Valve allows for program automation, simplifying sediment flushing and flow shut-off. The unit can serve as a stand-alone shut-off valve, or it can be paired with Rusco's filters and sediment trappers, or similar products. Pricing starts at about \$230 and varies depending on pipe size. rusco.com

Products

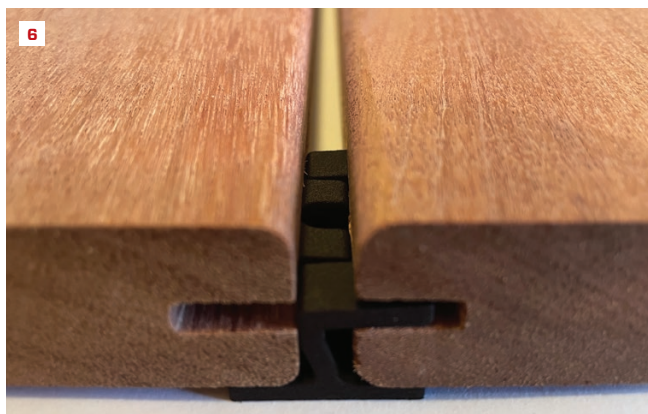
5. Stone-Look Laminate Countertops

Wilsonart's High Pressure Laminate (HPL) stone collection includes 16 natural design options. A new Fieldstone textured finish is less reflective than other stone finishes and has authentic characteristics and veining details, according to Wilsonart. The low-maintenance surfaces resist scratches and moisture and feature low chemical emissions. Contact distributors for pricing. wilsonart.com



6. Hidden Deck Clip

Nova USA Wood Products' new ExoDek QuickClip hidden fasteners are designed for use with the manufacturer's grooved-edge hardwood decking products as well as other grooved wood, PVC, and composite deck boards. The maker says the spring clips compress with the natural swelling of wood deck boards, and then as the wood dries out and shrinks, the clips expand to keep the boards in place. Made with glass fiber-reinforced nylon, the fastener system can secure up to five rows of decking at a time. A box of 175 clips, 175 screws, and two 1/4-inch decking spacers costs between \$120 and \$130. novausawood.com



7. Three-in-One Temporary Door Kit

The ZipDoor Magnetic Door Kit can be used for sealing a doorway up to 46 inches by 86 inches or creating a self-close entry in a plastic barrier. The flame retardant and reusable system can be set up with ZipWall double-sided tape and is designed not to damage the door frame. The kit features one self-closing magnetic door panel, three 1-inch-by-24-foot rolls of double-sided tape, and a ZipWall plastic-sheeting cutter. The magnetic door panel is made of high-tech fabric impervious to dust. The kit retails for \$100. zipwall.com



8. Anti-Glare, Radiant-Barrier Underlayment

Sol-R-Skin Blue from Boral is a UV-resistant, anti-glare coated roofing underlayment. According to the manufacturer, the product combines an aluminum radiant barrier surface with a fire-resistant mat that provides a Class-A fire rating under stone-coated steel and tile roofing. The blue coating on the underlayment helps reduce glare, making it easier to install than other radiant barrier underlayments. Offered in 54-inch-by-100-foot rolls with a thickness of 3/8 inch, the underlayment can be quickly nailed into place, with an adhesive strip at the head lap. boralroof.com



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9. Wood- and Steel-Compatible Deck Clips

Aegis Clips from MoistureShield can be used to attach decking to either wood or steel joist systems. They're made from glass-reinforced polypropylene and come with pre-inserted screws for faster installation. The clips insert into grooved deck boards—providing consistent 3/16-inch spacing while their beveled edges and toothed surface help control lateral movement—and screw to the joists. Available in buckets with 90 or 450 fasteners (including pre-inserted screws), Aegis Clips cost \$0.50 per square foot. Optional Starter Clips and Finishing Clips are sold separately. All clips are also available with stainless steel screws. moistureshield.com

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10. Hidden Trimboard Fastening System

The VZClip is designed to keep Versatex's Canvas Series and reversible WP4/Nickel Gap Trimboards in place at wind loads in excess of 125 mph. The one-piece hidden clip and fastener system speeds installation and preserves the smooth finish of unmarred PVC, according to Versatex. The manufacturer recommends installing the clips 16 inches on-center with #8 1⁵/₈-inch galvanized or stainless steel screws. One box of 315 clips, for 180 square feet of coverage, costs \$68.25. versatex.com

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11. Easy-Install Rainscreen System

With a vertical load capacity of more than 8,000 pounds per square foot and an open grid format, Ventgrid12 can be used to create a rainscreen system behind wall cladding and beneath wood roofing, according to the manufacturer. Almost entirely made from post-consumer recycled plastic that's resistant to deterioration and degradation, each sheet covers 32 square feet and has convenient preformed fastener holes for easy installation. ventgrid.com

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12. Nailable Solar Roofing Shingle

GAF Energy's Timberline Solar shingles install like a regular roof and have UL 7103 certification to serve as both solar panels and construction materials. GAF says the nailable shingles shed water, can stand up to hail, and are warranted to withstand winds up to 130 mph. The shingles are less dense than a traditional shingle at the same thickness. An average-size 6-kilowatt array includes 130 solar shingles and covers between 350 and 450 square feet on a roof. Contact GAF for pricing information. gaf.energy