

BY VINCENT SALANDRO



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1. Hardwood-Mimicking Composite Decking

According to Armadillo, its low-maintenance, high-performance composite deck boards are wrapped on all four sides with polyethylene that emulates a natural wood-grain finish and protects against fading, weathering, stains, mold, and mildew. Available in a range of colors and finishes, a 12-foot board costs approximately \$56. armadillodeck.com

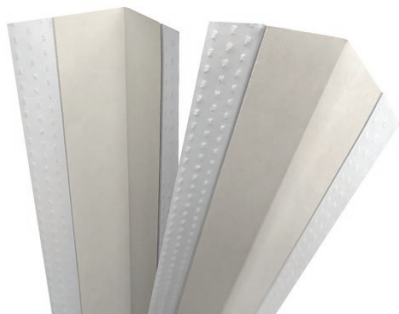
2. Multipurpose Plumbing Sealant

Hercules Megaloc Thread Sealant from Oatey is a multipurpose sealant with a nonseparating, nonflammable, and nonhazardous odorless formula. Able to withstand temperatures ranging from -50°F to 400°F without hardening or cracking, the sealant can be used on steel, stainless steel, brass, copper, aluminum, and plastics, and is safe for use on drinking-water lines, according to the manufacturer. A 4-fluid-ounce container costs about \$8.50. oatey.com

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3. Drywall Corner Beads

Levelline Outside 90 corner beads from CertainTeed have an impact-resistant plastic core, joint tape, and formulated surface paper for improved durability. The manufacturer says compared with paper-faced metal beads, the corners are lighter, easier to handle, flexible, and forgiving, and won't dent, crack, or rust. The joint tape guarantees bonding of the corner to drywall while using less compound and reducing dry time, according to CertainTeed. Corner beads are available in 6-foot-10-inch and 8-, 9-, and 10-foot lengths. certainteed.com

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4. Fascia Fastening System

Envision Outdoor Living Products' Deckfast Fascia System, for use with the manufacturer's skirting boards, comprises a Fascia Tool and color-coated Headcote stainless steel or epoxy-coated carbon steel screws. Predrilling with the tool creates oversized holes to help accommodate expansion and contraction of the composite skirting boards. The color-matched screws are then driven into the holes. The manufacturer claims only three fasteners are needed for every 16 inches of fascia. The screws come in 100-count packs to cover 44 linear feet. Contact a dealer for pricing. envisionoutdoorliving.com

Products

5. Stainless Steel Deck Fasteners

National Nail's Camo brand 305 and 316 stainless steel fasteners are suitable for use in coastal and agricultural environments and in applications that face abrasive agents, according to Camo. The line of fasteners includes wood and composite deck and trim screws with 2-inch power bits, as well as edge screws, collated screws, ring-shank deck nails, joist-hanger nails, collated ring-shank framing nails, and collated metal-hanger nails. We found a box of 1,750 3-inch #10 stainless steel bugle-head deck screws for about \$400 online. camofasteners.com

6. Exterior Painter's Tape

FrogTape High Bond Exterior Painter's Tape is engineered to adhere to difficult surfaces, like self-cleaning paints, and rough textures, like stucco, brick, and concrete. FrogTape says the tape adheres to uneven substrates and to painted wood, aluminum, steel, and vinyl, while its crepe paper backing allows the tape to conform easily to bends and turns—and then removes cleanly, without shredding. A 1.41-inch-by-60-yard roll is priced at \$10.50. frogtape.com

7. High-Tech Lag Screws

The Nova Structural Lag screw features a "Fast Start Tip," which the maker claims provides an immediate grip that reduces splitting and minimizes the torque needed to engage the wood. The manufacturer says the screw's "Twin Blades" help reduce friction and heat on the shank, reduce load on the drill, and remove debris faster than a standard fastener's knurl. Locking wedges help mill and countersink the head into the wood for a clean finish. screw-products.com

8. Lineage Composite Decking

The Trex Transcend Lineage decking line, made from recycled and reclaimed content, features boards with subtle graining. Trex says the boards reflect the sun, staying cooler than other composite decking offerings of similar colors, and are manufactured with Trex's high-traffic formulation and integrated shell that resists stains, scratches, and mold. Lineage boards are available in square and grooved profiles, measuring 1 inch by 6 inches. Square-edged boards come in 16-foot and 20-foot lengths while grooved boards come in 12-, 16-, and 20-foot lengths. lineage.trex.com





9. Fast-Curing Subfloor Adhesive

LP Legacy Premium Sub-Flooring Adhesive is designed to work in tandem with LP Legacy Premium Sub-Flooring and LP TopNotch 350 Durable Sub-Flooring to create tight seals in small gaps between panels, helping produce a still, squeak-free subfloor system. LP says the gun-applied polyurethane collapsible foam adhesive is fast-curing, 100% solvent-free, and VOC-compliant, and one 29-ounce can provides 12 times the coverage of a typical tube of subflooring adhesive. The adhesive can be applied to wet, dry, or frozen lumber, treated lumber, masonry, decking, concrete, or metal. lpcorp.com



10. Curb Appeal-Enhancing Door Panels

ProVia's 3-inch and 5-inch Simulated Divided Panels (SDPs) for Signet Fiberglass Fir doors provide dimension to entry doors. SDPs can be applied directly to the skin of a solid 001-style door to create horizontal, vertical, or X-shaped panels, or to the surface of a 460-style glass door, incorporating either clear or privacy glass. SDPs are available in a variety of stain, glaze, or paint colors. provia.com



11. Protective Joist Tape

MoistureShield Joist Tape may help to increase the lifespan of both wood- and metal-framed decks by protecting the framing from the elements. The maker claims that the tape's acrylic adhesive and woven cloth substrate form a tight seal over joists and deck screws to prevent moisture infiltration, which can lead to rot and fastener corrosion. The tape can reportedly be applied between -20°F and 200°F and is available in 2-inch-by-65-foot, 4-inch-by-65-foot, and 6-inch-by-65-foot sizes. moistureshield.com



12. All-Electric Cooktop

Thor Kitchen's Professional Electric Cooktops feature touch-screen heat control, nine power levels, and a high-powered 3,600-watt LightningBoil Element. The latter consists of three individually controlled rings and can heat a small pot with one ring or quickly boil a large pot of water with all three turned on. A Sync Burner allows users to evenly heat large cookware by synchronizing both left-side elements for up to 3,800 watts of combined output. Available in 30-inch or 36-inch models, the cooktops are equipped with an automatic shutoff for improved user safety. thorkitchen.com