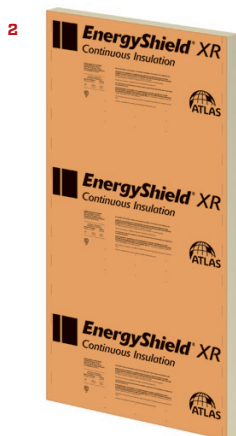


BY VINCENT SALANDRO



1. Efficient Energy Recovery Ventilator

AprilAire says its 120-cfm V22BEC Energy Recovery Ventilator can help contractors meet code requirements for ventilation airflow and efficiency. The unit has a push-button fan-speed control for continuous operation; when paired with the manufacturer's thermostats or 8120X digital controller, the ERV can be intermittently turned off when outdoor humidity or temperature is too high. A templated mounting bracket is included to simplify installation on ceilings, walls, or floors. aprilair.com

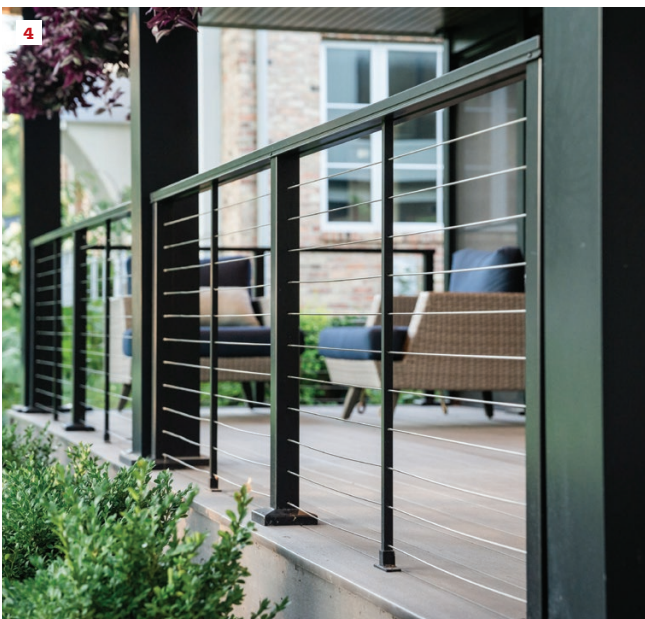


2. Polyiso Insulation Product

Engineered to provide continuous insulation for below-grade walls and under slabs, Atlas' EnergyShield XR is a moisture-resistant polyiso rigid foam board with impermeable facers. According to the manufacturer, the prescored boards are easy to cut and are compatible with most mastic or solvent-based products. Pricing ranges from \$19 to \$70 a sheet. wall.atlasrwi.com

3. Clips for Grooved Deck Boards

Camo WedgeClips and WedgeMetal clips are preassembled hidden fasteners for use with grooved composite, PVC, and wood deck boards. WedgeClips are designed to attach decking to wood framing and feature a black-coated 316 stainless steel screw and gusset for corrosion resistance. WedgeMetal clips, for use with 14- to 18-gauge metal joists, feature a 304 stainless steel gusset and a 410 stainless steel drill point screw (both also with a black coating). Both clips can be installed with Camo's Never-Miss Guide (included) or ClipDrive or Drive stand-up tools. For a 90-count bucket, WedgeClips cost \$60; WedgeMetal clips, \$65. camofasteners.com



4. Easy-Assemble Aluminum Railing System

Feeney's DesignRail Modern modular aluminum railing system comprises components that easily snap and screw together. Fasteners are tucked under a flat handrail for a clean aesthetic, and the minimalist look is enhanced by the absence of a bottom rail and by a long allowable span—up to 8 feet—which reduces the number of posts required. The system's 6000 series powder-coated aluminum posts and rails come predrilled. feeneyinc.com

Products

5. Flush-Surface Gap Siding

On LP SmartSide Nickel Gap Siding, locking flanges with a fastener groove conceal fasteners and provide a flush surface for a contemporary appearance. Available in a brushed-smooth or cedar texture in 16 prefinished ExpertFinish colors and in a primed cedar texture, planks are 8 inches wide, with a true 7-inch reveal. lpcorp.com

6. Wide-Span Composite Enhanced PVC Decking

MoistureShield says its new Stratos “composite enhanced PVC” decking has a 50% greater span than conventional PVC and composite products. Boards have a lightweight cellular PVC core, a glass-fiber-reinforced composite shell for strength, and an acrylic cap to resist stains, scratches, and fading. The manufacturer claims that the boards expand less at higher temperatures than standard PVC decking, allowing for tighter details across wider spans. After a regional launch in the spring, Stratos will be rolled out in a wood-grain finish in three colors to a national audience in the summer. moistureshield.com

7. Time-Saving Interior Window Installation

The Pella Steady Set system for new construction employs factory-attached components to help speed and improve window installation and enable more of the process to occur from inside a house. For instance, a “head stabilizer” engages with the rough opening to keep the window from falling inward; installation brackets just need to be unclipped, flipped, and clicked before being fastened to the framing; shim guides on the jambs hold shims in place; sill shims raise the unit 1/4 inch off the rough opening; and an exterior fin with continuous corners pops out ready for flashing tape after the window is set. Steady Set will be available on Pella Reserve and Lifestyle Series wood windows nationwide starting in the summer. pella.com

8. Matte Black Exteriors

To promote cohesive designs reflecting matte-black aesthetic trends, Ply Gem’s line of exterior blocks, mounts, and vents are now available in 498 black, matching the manufacturer’s Mastic black vinyl soffit, gutter, and trim coil. According to the manufacturer, the black color will not lose its pigment over time. The manufacturer says the color creates “dramatic contrast” against muted colors. plygem.com

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9. All-in-One Wood Stain and Sealer

Suited for both interior and exterior applications, StoColor Wood Stain from Sto Corp is available in new colors. The manufacturer says the product combines the benefits of a stain and sealer, helping to achieve a wood-grain appearance as well as UV resistance. The stain can be applied to StoCast Wood, to any Sto Corp cladding system as the finish layer, and to common construction surfaces, such as CMU, stucco, and drywall. stocorp.com



10. Attic Stair Kit

Rather than folding, Tri Line Services' Safe Step Stairs retract into and open out of a garage ceiling to provide access to attic space. The manually operated stairs open and close easily and can be climbed hands-free, according to the manufacturer, though handrails are included for safety and comfort. Safe Step Stairs are also available configured to meet Class A fire rating code requirements. A wooden kit for an 8-foot ceiling costs \$1,300. trilineatticsolutions.com



11. Cabinet Light Installation Tool

True Position Tools' Cabinet Light Jig facilitates the installation of light wires within the structural panels of a cabinet while eliminating the need for a light rail or double bottom. The jig can be used to conceal wires and lights in panels as thin as $\frac{5}{8}$ inch. The base model kit (\$250), which works with strip lights only, includes a jig, drill bit, and case. Kits that also work with puck lights (starting at \$300) include steel-body Forstner drill bits with a wave cutting edge and adjustable stop collar. For installing strip lights, you'll need to use a router to create a channel. truepositiontools.com



12. Heavy-Duty, Versatile Sealant

Typar's Heavy-Duty Sealant for doors, windows, and seams is an approved alternative for Typar Double-Sided Tape on seaming applications with Typar DrainableWrap and DrainableWrap Commercial. According to the manufacturer, the sealant's modified urethane acrylic composition makes it ideal for creating airtight and watertight building envelopes. Typar also says the sealant is gunnability down to 32°F, seals joints up to 2 inches (if properly applied), stays tack-free for more than 60 minutes, fully cures within 48 to 72 hours, is paintable and stain-resistant, and has low (less than 1.5%) VOC content. typar.com